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'Use various schemes for women, convert hurdles into stepping stones for success'

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, on the occasion of "International Women's Day" *(English Translation)*.

Every year March 8th is celebrated as "International Women's Day" to appreciate the greatness of women, celebrate their glory and to make the world know their contribution in the development of society. On this significant day, I extend my heartiest greetings to all women.

The Tamil Nadu Government, treading the path of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been implementing many innovative schemes for the welfare of women and the improvement of their lives. The schemes, which are not implemented in any other State in the country, include distribution of mixie, grinder and fan at no cost, distribution of cows and goats at no cost to improve the economy of rural women, gold for thaali along with marriage assistance to encourage educated women, cost-free sanitary napkin scheme, a 13-point scheme to prevent crimes against women, which is a forerunner in the country, 9 months maternity leave for women working in government offices, Amma Two Wheeler Scheme for working women to commute to their working places without hassles, women's hostel with the lofty view of enabling working women to stay in safe places, to meet the economic requirement of women and to remain self supporting, 123 women industrial co-operative societies under the Social Welfare Department, installation of CCTV cameras in various places in Chennai to ensure the safety of women and children under Nirbhaya fund, Kavalan App to ensure protection of women, child cradle scheme integrating prevention of infanticide of girl children, protection of girl children and improving the girl child sex ratio, girl child protection scheme, save girl child educate girl child scheme.

A specially designed SHe Box internet portal monitored by the Social Welfare Department is available to make complaints of any violation of women's rights, against sexual harassment and extraordinary situations. To provide immediate assistance to affected women, a round-the-clock toll free 181 telephone service to contact women service centre has been established. To help women affected by violence in private and public places, in communities and in working places, integrated one stop service centre is available in all Districts to provide counselling, temporary accommodation, and medical and legal assistance. I appeal to all women to face the challenges in their lives firmly, convert the hurdles on their way into stepping stones for success and achievement and come up in their lives. I once again wish all women on this occasion a happy Women's Day.

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"Tamil Nadu plays a big role in India's growth. Hence, my Government is moving towards the target fixed by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalavi Amma so that Tamil Nadu rises as the best place in Asia for investment."

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami
- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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First Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, on the occasion of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Birth Anniversary which marks the 'State Girl Child Protection Day', handed over deposit certificates of Rs.25,000 to each of the 14 girl children newly included in the Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme, at the Secretariat, Chennai on 24.02.2020.

Hon’ble Chief Minister announces five schemes for destitute girl children in Amma’s memory

Statement of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 on 19.02.2020 *(English Translation)*

Department of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme

Hon’ble Speaker Sir,

Our Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was greatly attached to children. She showed unshaken love towards them with the heart of a mother whenever she saw them. She particularly took great interest in the welfare of girl children, lighted up their lives and toiled for their progress.

Novel schemes like ‘Cradle Baby scheme’ hailed by Mother Teresa herself, ‘Girl Child Protection Scheme’, ‘colour uniforms for Anganwadi children’, ‘gold for ‘thali’ along with incentive cash’ to educated girls for encouraging girl’s education and setting up ‘integrated complexes for destitute children and aged persons’ to create an ambience of love and care, were introduced by Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and are being implemented continuously in an excellent manner by Hon’ble Amma’s Government.

Hon’ble Amma’s Government has decided to observe February 24, the birth day of Hon’ble Amma as ‘Girl Child Protection Day’ to commemorate her great services to children, particularly to girl children. I am happy to inform that Hon’ble Amma’s Government proposes to implement five new schemes for destitute girl children in honour of Hon’ble Amma’s memory.

1. A sum of Rs.2 lakh each will be deposited in bank in the name of destitute children living in Government Homes when they complete 21 years of age. This amount will help them settle down in life when they leave the Government homes.

2. If there is any threat to the safety and economic condition of destitute girl children after they leave the Government children’s home at the completion of 18 years of age, Hon’ble Amma’s Government will provide them, as acting parents, a special package to ensure their socio-economic safety. This package will include higher education, skill development training, employment opportunity, self employment etc. This assistance will continue till they complete 50 years of age.

3. At present, foster parents are given a monthly assistance of Rs.2,000 for 3 years to bring up and maintain in a good homely atmosphere, destitute and orphaned children in foster care. This assistance will be increased to Rs.4,000 per month and extended to 5 years.

4. Hon'ble Amma was the first person to introduce the Cradle Baby Scheme to prevent female infanticide. While female infanticide is coming down in Tamil Nadu, the child sex ratio in some Districts is less compared to the average ratio. To increase this child sex ratio, gold, silver and bronze medals with certificates will be given as the first three prizes to three District administrations that put in the best performance.

5. At present there is a Government order to appoint the inmates of children homes, observation homes, special homes, after-care homes and women's shelter homes, functioning under Social Defence Department, as well as those who have left the safety shelters after training, in vacancies in 'C' and 'D' categories not coming under the purview of the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission.

Destitute and totally abandoned children in all children homes will be appointed on a priority basis in vacancies in the 'C' and 'D' categories, not coming under the ambit of the Public Service commission, in the offices of the Departments of Social Welfare, Social Defence and Integrated Child Development Service Scheme, functioning under the Department of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme, in accordance with their age, education and other qualifications.

Besides, I am happy to announce in this House that they will be appointed in posts in nutritious meal scheme and anganwadi centres also on a priority basis as per their eligibility.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I make the following announcements to this House on behalf of the Department of Backward, Most Backward and Minorities Welfare:

1. At present, a monthly pension of Rs.1,500 is given to Ulemas – Pesh Imam, Mothinar, Arabic teacher and Mujawar – who have retired from Wakf institutions in Tamil Nadu and are living in indigent conditions. This pension will be increased from Rs.1,500 to Rs.3,000.

2. Every year, 4,000 pilgrims undertake Hajj pilgrimage through the Tamil Nadu Hajj committee, via Chennai airport. Last year, more than 4,300 persons undertook this pilgrimage. To facilitate these pilgrims, to undertake passport verification and other travel related works the Tamil Nadu Government will allot Rs.15 crore for construction of a Hajj Illam on land allotted by the Tamil Nadu Wakf Board, in chennai.

3. There are 2,814 Wakf institutions in Tamil Nadu, registered with the Tamil Nadu Wakf Board. I am happy to announce that Ulemas in these institutions will be given Rs.25,000 or 50 per cent of the cost of new two wheelers they intend to purchase, whichever is less, as subsidy for purchase of the vehicle. With this announcement, I resume my seat. ■

Award handed over on Girl Child Protection Day

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, handed over the State award for Girl Child Development to Selvi S. Bhavatharini on Girl Child Protection day at Secretariat, chennai on 24.02.2020.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also distributed the documents and Fixed Deposit receipts for Rs.25,000 each to 14 girl children, who were recently added in the Girl Child Protection Scheme, and also handed over the matured amount to 7 women members of the Scheme who have completed 18 years of age.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami announced in the Assembly under Rule 110 on 19.02.2020 that every year, February 24th, the Birth Anniversary of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma will be observed as Girl Child Protection Day to commemorate the memory of Hon'ble Amma, who took great interest in the welfare of girl children.

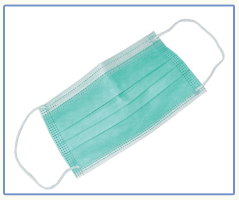
As per the announcement, the Award will be given to a Girl Child below the age of 18, for prevention of crimes against girl children, ensuring education for girl children till the completion of 18 years of age, abolishing child labour among girls and prevention of child marriage of girls.

This year, 9-year-old Selvi S. Bhavatharini of Malumiyarpettai of Cuddalore District, was selected for the Award for her contribution towards creating awareness about harmful effects of plastic use, encouraging people to exercise their franchise, propagating the Poshan

Abhiyaan Scheme (National Nutrition Mission) and for her various awareness programmes on social issues.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami gave away the Award consisting of Rs.One lakh Cash and an Appreciation Certificate, to Selvi S. Bhavatharini at the Secretariat on 24.02.2020.

Under the Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami handed over Fixed Deposit receipts of Rs.25,000 each to 14 girl children who were recently added in the Scheme. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also handed over the matured amount to 7 women who were members of the scheme and who had attained 18 years of age.



Caution against Coronavirus

Precautionary steps to be taken by the general public:

- Wash your hands often with soap. This must be done thoroughly for at least 30 seconds.
- Cover your face with handkerchief while coughing and sneezing.
- Children below 3 years of age and senior citizens above 70 should avoid going to public places and crowded places.
- Non-vegetarians should heat their food well.
- Don't travel to countries affected by coronavirus.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates work to fill 100 parched lakes with surplus Mettur water

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** after laying the foundation stone for a scheme to supply water to 100 parched lakes in Sarabanga basin with the surplus flood waters of Mettur dam, at a function at Iruppali Panchayat, Edappadi, Salem District, on 04.03.2020 *(English Translation)*.

My respects to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

At the outset, my respects to all of you participating in this excellent function. This is a historic function. I have participated in many functions while I was a member of the Assembly, Parliament and while functioning as Highways Minister in Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Cabinet in 2011. But this function is giving me a happiness that I did not experience in any of those programmes.

This is a rain-fed area. As far as I know, all the 100 lakes here have remained parched all along. This scheme has been inaugurated at a cost of about Rs.565 crore to fill up these lakes with water. It will be completed in the next 11 months. The Mettupatti lake will be filled up, farming in this area will improve and the drinking water problem will be totally solved. The only Government that implements what it says is Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government. Our Government is not one that cheats people after announcing a scheme. From the time of Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's assumption of office as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 2011 and after her demise also, our Government is making her dreams come true. All the schemes inaugurated by Amma are being taken to the people without any leakage. Not only that. Our Government is also implementing schemes cherished by Amma, but not announced by

her. Hon'ble Amma used to tell us that water management should be properly executed for improving water resources to develop the village economy and enrich the lives of the rural poor. Unfortunately, Amma passed away. Ideas that sprouted in her mind are being implemented by our Government.

Some 21 months back, I ordered the setting up of a committee with 5 committed and efficient retired engineers – 2 chief engineers and 3 superintending engineers – to draft a scheme to conserve rain water draining into the sea. After several consultations with that committee and on the basis of their report, a scheme was designed to fill up 100 dry lakes at a cost of Rs.565 crore and it has been implemented today through chief engineers. When a scheme is prepared, it should be implemented within a fixed period. It is easy to draft a scheme but difficult to execute it. If there is a Government that plans projects and completes them in time, like this water management scheme which has been completed in time and begun to function in an excellent manner, I emphatically state that it is our Government. It is through its action that the scheme has been completed in the stipulated time.

After I assumed office, Hon'ble Amma's Government selected, as a pilot project, 1,519 lakes for 'kudimaramathu', allotted Rs.100 crore and works on 1,513 lakes have been completed. Farmers welcomed it as a special scheme and demanded its extension in full measure. Of the nearly 40,000 lakes in Tamil Nadu, 14,000 are maintained by the public works Department. The rest are maintained through panchayat unions. Water bodies are classified as lakes, ponds, ooranies etc. To dredge the 40,000 lakes in stages, strengthen bunds, repair sluices and vaikkaals and conserve surplus water, the second stage of the scheme is being implemented in 29 Districts on an allotment of Rs.329 crore. In this second stage, 1,511 lakes have been selected and 1,439 works have been completed. In 2019-2020, 1,829 more lakes have been selected in Districts, Rs.500 crore has been allotted and 949 works have been completed. This 'kudimaramathu' is implemented entirely with farmers' participation. But the Leader of the Opposition Thiru. Stalin is purposefully and in a planned way spreading wrong, false news that irregularities have taken place in the implementation of this scheme. We strongly condemn his misrepresentation.

We have entrusted this scheme totally to farmers. It is they who are implementing this scheme. Besides lakes getting deepened through the 'kudimaramathu' scheme, the dredged alluvial soil is used as natural fertilizer in farmers' fields. This is a wonderful scheme. Thiru. Stalin! Kindly, speak if you are in the know of things. Don't blame farmers. With good acknowledgement from farmers and the general public, this scheme is being implemented. As a result of de-silting of lakes through the 'kudimaramathu' scheme, they get filled up, re-charging and rising the groundwater table in summer and this makes available enough water for farmers and for drinking water needs. I am duty bound to proudly say that it is our Government that has brought this wonderful scheme.

Monsoon rain water drains wastefully into the sea through odais and rivers. We therefore announced a three-year scheme after

consulting with officials to conserve the entire rain water through check dams and to raise the ground water table. Rs.1,000 crore has been allotted for this. At present, works costing Rs.650 crore are being carried out. Check dams are being constructed across odais and rivers through which rain waters was getting drained. A check dam is being constructed at Adhanur Kumaramangalam at a cost of Rs.400 crore. Thirty per cent of that work has been completed. Our Government is implementing schemes like constructing barrages to prevent surplus water in the Cauvery draining into the sea and check dams to protect every drop of rain water.

About 60 per cent of the population in Tamil Nadu is engaged in agriculture. As a sequel to planning on how to supply the required water to them, today, in the first phase and as a pilot project, the foundation stone has been laid for a scheme at Mettupatti lake, Iruppali panchayat, Edappadi Assembly Constituency, Salem District, to fill up 100 dry lakes with water at a cost of Rs.565 crore. This scheme is to turn drought areas of Tamil Nadu into fertile areas. Our aim is that farmers should be prosperous, agriculture labour should have permanent jobs. The foundation stone laid today is the first step towards achieving that goal.

The surplus water let out of Mettur Dam after it reaches the full level of 120 feet, wastefully goes into the sea. This surplus water is diverted to these 100 lakes to fill them up. We have clearly explained where water will be tapped, where it will be stored and conveyed to lakes, all through pumping. You have to fully understand our schemes. Those in the opposition parties are all talk and no action. We are not like that, we are action heroes. We demonstrate what we say, through our works. After 11 months, you should feel that Chief Minister has given a concrete shape today to what he had said in Iruppali, that what we saw is not a dream, it has been realized. It is praiseworthy that engineers of the Public Works Department inclusive of chief engineers worked effectively round-the- clock after I made this announcement. The work jointly designed by the engineers appointed for water management scheme to fill

up these 100 lakes with water by reflecting the aspirations of farmers, has been started today. For that, I convey my gratitude, on behalf of you, as a chief Minister and as the MLA of this Constituency, to the PWD engineers. Likewise, I thank the District Collector and revenue Department officials who have been supportive in the land acquisition for this scheme, on behalf of the general public, on behalf of agriculturists and on my own behalf. Whatever be the number of schemes designed, it is in the hands of officials to complete the schemes in the specified period. From the day I took over administrative responsibility till date, starting from IAS officers all Department officials are working in an excellent way. This is the reason for my saying wholeheartedly that all Government schemes are being implemented in the specified period. That is why opposition parties are unable to say anything and are tottering. For the administrative cart, one wheel is the Government we run and the other wheel consists of officials. If the two wheels are even, we can reach the destination. Now the wheels are balanced. Tamil Nadu is moving towards the destination. Hence, we are winning many awards Department-wise. Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in getting the maximum number of national awards in India. Some opposition party leaders ask what Tamil Nadu has achieved. Since many things are being achieved, people are benefited due to the implementation of excellent schemes Department-wise. Because of this Tamil Nadu is getting premier State status, and for this the Central Government is presenting many awards.

Leaders of Opposition parties deliberately level false accusations against the Government. We are not bothered about these charges. We have nothing to hide, hence we have no fear in continuing the journey . We have a strong mind, we take strong decisions. With this strength, we are implementing many schemes. People are our masters, our ideal is to carry out the desires of the people. I wish to state that we will succeed in this ideal journey.

In the interest of farmers, I have today laid the foundation at Iruippali panchayat for a scheme to supply water to parched lakes in the Sarabanga basin in Salem District by pumping the surplus waters of Mettur Dam. The scheme to supply water to 100 parched lakes was announced and administrative sanction was given for its implementation at a cost of Rs.565 crore.

The surplus flood waters of Mettur Dam when the water level reaches its full level of 120 feet, will be conveyed through a canal from the left bank water spread to Thippampatti Main Pumping Station. At the pumping station, water fill be pumped by 10 electric motors of 940 HP capacity each and taken through 2.2 metre diameter pipes at the rate of 126 cubic feet per second to M.Kalipatti lake, 12 kms away and from there to 23 lakes.

Likewise, water will be carried to the ground level water tank, to be set up near Vadugapatti through the auxiliary pumping station to be set up in Vellalapuram lake. In the pumping station, water will be pumped by 4 electric motors of 640 HP capacity and conveyed through a pipe of 1.6 metre diameter to the ground level water tank, 5.50 kms away. From there, 14 lakes will be filled up. This scheme will benefit 4,238 acres of ayacut of the 100 lakes – 12 PWD lakes, 88 panchayat union lakes and ponds in 9 panchayat unions

of Salem District. Also, when these lakes are filled up, ground water level of wells and bore wells, will rise. The total requirement of water for this scheme is 555 million cubic feet and it is designed to supply this quantum in 30 days at the rate of 214 cubic feet of water per second. Water storage in Mettur Dam for 205 days – from 13.08.2019 to 04.03.2020 – was not less than 100 ft. level. Now too, water level is more than 100 ft. In 2019, the dam had reached its maximum level of 120 feet four times. In November, December months of 2019, water level remained at 120 feet for 42 days. Hence, we can get the required quantum of water and fill up the lakes. Last year, for a total of 79 days, water level in Mettur Dam remained at 120 ft.

The benefiting 100 lakes: Kalipatti Kuttai, Rayappan Eri, Chinna Eri, Maanaathaal Eri, T. Maramangalam Eri, Periyeripatti Eri, Mallikuttai Eri, Amarakunthi Kaathaan Eri, Amarakunthi Pudhu Eri, Kasuvaareddypatti Eri, Chetty Eri, Periya Kaadampatti Eri, Tharamangalam Eri, Sedapatti Kuttai, Aarurpatti Eri, Kurukkupatti, Thuttampatti, Kolanthampatti Eri, Vellalapuram Eri, Senguttai Eri, Arasankuttai, Eejaan Eri, Nagasamudram Eri, Aavaniperur Periya Eri, Yekapuram Eri, Chinna Eri, Vazhayachettipatti Eri, Kaspa Eri, Pappampatti Pudu Eri, Kachupalli Eri, Kornampatti Eri, Ayyampalayam Eri, Korukkupatti Eri, Kollapatti Eri, Ramagoundan Kuttai, Kannantheri Kaspa Eri, Konganapuram Pudu Eri, Pavaai Kuttai, Chengan Kuttai, Ettikuttai, Vannan Kuttai, Mankuttapatti Periya Eri, Mankuttapatti Chinna Eri, Paalapatti Kuttai, Nallthanneer Kuttai, Panjaanga Kuttai, Periya Eri, Moolaivittan Kuttai, Kuttai, Gundan Eri, Katchaaraiyya Kuttai, Aadikaattu Kuttai, Periya Eri, Kuttai (1), Kuttai (2), Ragas Kuttai, Pazhani Goundan Kuttai, Raja Goundan Kuttai, Nottakaran Kuttai, Nalla Thambi Goundan Kuttai, Kuppaiah Goundan Kuttai, Thoppam Kuttai, Kattan Kuttai, Veppam Kuttai, Kali Goundan Kuttai, Attakaran Kuttai, Acchampalli Eri, Punga Eri, Edappadi Periya Eri, Edappadi Chinna Kuttai, Nangavalli Kuttai/Pillu Kuttai, Vanavasi Eri, Kanakkan Eri, Vathiapatti Eri, Vairan Eri, Selavadai Eri, Rangappan Eri/ Kanjappan Chetty Eri, Kuppampatti Kuttai, Kottamedu Vaidhyar Kuttai, Jalakandapuram Eri, Kaattampatti Eri, Kattinaikanpatti Eri, Elavampatti Eri, Panangkottai Eri, Ayyan Eri, Ammapalayam Eri, Mettupoopatti Eri, Kottapulipalayam Eri, Sarkar Eri, Vembaneri, Amman Eri, Pommasamudram Eri, Aavani Perur Chinna Eri, Kundiyaampatti Eri, Aachampatti Eri, Monnanseri Kuttai, Chithoor Eri, Reddypatti Eri, Pillukurichi Eri and Kuttai (near East Bank canal).

To fill up these 100 lakes with water, foundation stone has been laid today. I have mentioned this so that people understand the extent Government is functioning. The ayacut areas of these lakes will be seen next year with fertile growth, and your faces will beam with happiness. I wish to state that the Government will turn all the rain-fed areas into fertile lands.

A detailed estimate report is being prepared for constructing a barrage across Cauvery river at Nanjaipugalur village, Manmangalam Taluk, Karur District. The construction work is to commence shortly. When our dream project - Cauvery - Godavari link project - is implemented, Tamil Nadu will get about 200 tmc ft. of water. We are continuing our efforts for that. The Union Minister for

Irrigation is also putting in his efforts. These works will be completed shortly. This project will be implemented covering the States of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Through this project, not only delta Districts in Tamil Nadu but also many other areas of the state will get water resources. When this project is implemented, all the dry lakes on the Cauvery banks on either side to a distance of 50 km will be filled up with pumped water. As I have already mentioned, we have started pumping water at a cost of Rs.565 crore. Amma's Government is examining bringing water in Vasishta Nadhi in a similar way in the second phase.

Through a letter, I requested the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister for a meeting to discuss the linking of the Cauvery-Godavari rivers. He agreed to it. So, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration and Hon'ble Fisheries Minister met the Andhra Chief Minister today and presented my letter. Likewise, we have asked for an appointment to meet the Chief Minister of Telangana. They have also agreed to fix up a time shortly. So, all the three Chief Ministers will jointly examine the implementation of this scheme, which is the dream project of Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, and occomplish the scheme by sending a proposal to the Central Government. Water obtained through this scheme will be stored at the Karur barrage and taken to the fields in the dry regions of the Districts like Tiruchi, Pudukkottai, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar through main canals to be dug at a cost of Rs.14,000 crore. This will make southern Districts fertile. This is our goal. We are realizing Amma's dream. The Central Minister has stated that Cauvery-Godavari Link Scheme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.64,000 crore. It is due to the cordial relationship with the Central Government that many works become feasible. We hope good things will materialize. With the blessings of Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and agriculturists, this scheme will be implemented.

We are also examining the possibility of bringing all these 100 lakes, now mostly under the control of panchayat unions and some under Town Panchayat, Municipality and public works Department, under PWD itself in deference to the representations from representatives of Local Bodies and Members of the Legislature. Amma's Government is examining allotment of funds for repairing these 100 lakes totally as water has to be stored.

As for Edappadi Constituency, we have implemented many schemes. When I contested the Assembly election on behalf of AIADMK in the Edappadi Constituency, people listed many problems and asked for the setting up of a college. My first demand to Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in 2011 was for a college in a locality full of poor people to help students get higher education at a low fee. Immediately, Amma opened a new Government college. About 2,000 students are studying there. Your demand was met. As for your request for a polytechnic college, one was set up at Nangavalli, a common centre to the constituencies of Mettur, Sankagiri and Edappadi, at a cost of Rs.58 crore. Through this, we have made it possible for thousands of students to study. Acceding to the request of Konganapuram people, a B.Ed. college has been set up at Ettikuttaimedu. Further, a SIDCO Industrial Estate is being created

at Ettikuttaimedu for the development of industries. That will be opened shortly. For power needs of that Estate, a sub-station for electricity has been set up. Model schools have been opened in the three panchayat unions of Nangavalli, Edappadi and Konganapuram to facilitate poor children study English language.

To supply protected Cauvery water, Amma implemented a combined water supply scheme at a cost of Rs.21 crore. Now protected water is supplied to 30 wards in Mettur. At Edappadi, the hospital has been upgraded with an additional medical building, constructed at a cost of Rs.4 crore and supply of medical equipment at a cost of Rs.4.5 crore. Divisional office for Highways Department has been provided. At Edappadi, District Education office has been provided. A bypass road for Edappadi, announced by Amma, has been opened and people are using it. A bypass road for Jalakandapuram has been announced. A bypass road for Tharamangalam was announced and has been declared open today. We are proving that our Government is the only Government which carries out its election promises.

We have fulfilled the announcement made in the election campaign of providing uninterrupted protected Cauvery water supply to the people of Edappadi, Konganapuram and Magudanchavadi through the Edappadi-Magundanchavadi combined water supply scheme. Additionally, steps are being taken to set up an overhead tank to supply water to the left out villages.

The Mecheri-Nangavalli combined water supply scheme, announced by Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has been executed by our Government at a cost of Rs.158 crore and has been put into operation. Additionally, steps are being taken to construct an overhead tank for water supply to left out villages.

The scheme to make officials meet you and get your petitions – Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal Scheme – was first inaugurated at Nangavalli in the Edappadi Constituency. People all over Tamil Nadu have welcomed this scheme as excellent. In Salem District alone, 58,218 petitions were received through this scheme and the complaints in eligible petitions were solved after District Collector's scrutiny. As for Edappadi, 4,154 petitions were received and 3,616 of them have been settled; the remaining 538 are under re-examination. The level of efficiency of this Government has been proved through the redressal of grievances in just 3 months after the receipt of petitions.

We have constructed bridges all over Tamil Nadu, not merely in Salem District; and roads too have been constructed and the widening of roads undertaken. We have provided road transport facilities. There is direct bus service from Salem to cities like Bengaluru and Coimbatore.

Steps will be taken to expedite the combined water supply scheme to the constituencies of Sankagiri, and Veerapandi. Filling up lakes in Namakkal District also, through pumping the surplus water of Cauvery river is under examination.

It is our Government that has allotted Rs.186.25 crore to protect the maize crop from the Fall Armyworm attack. This year spraying of pesticide at a cost of Rs.47.64 crore has helped farmers get a higher maize yield. The Government is in the process of taking a

decision to allot Rs.2,962 crore under the Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization scheme and implementing it. Farm ponds, numbering 3,746 have been set up; 966 check dams have been constructed; through the crop insurance scheme, Rs.7,618 crore compensation has been distributed to 36.44 lakh farmers – ours, the only Government in India that has got the maximum compensation; interest free crop loan to the extent of Rs.22,000 crore to 34 lakhs farmers; interest incentive to the tune of Rs.304 crore to farmers; Tamil Nadu ranks first in drip irrigation project - 3.25 lakh farmers benefited by way of Rs.1,582 crore subsidy through this project; Rs.681 crore was allotted under the 'Uzhavar Padukappu Thittam' and 8.81 lakh farmers benefited. For small and micro farmers, 20,000 groups have been formed through collective farm scheme in the last 2 years and 4,000 farmer-producer associations have been created out of them. Utilizing Government's capital fund, more than 16,000 numbers of agriculture machinery have been purchased. We are working out with the basic intention of solving all the problems of farmers.

On account of the steps taken by Hon'ble Amma's Government, I am proud to say, Tamil Nadu not only became self sufficient in food grain production continuously for 5 years but also captured the premier place in the country for it and won the national 'Krishi Karman' award 5 times.

Through the 'Uzhavan' App, farmers can get to know on their mobile phone, seed, fertilizer and pesticide stocks in co-operative societies, information on crop insurance, market price of produce, rental centres of agriculture machines, weather, telephone numbers of agriculture officers and the like. These are all for the good of the farming community.

The foundation stone has been laid for a very huge Livestock Park on 1,866 acres area at Thalaivasal Koottu road near Athur at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore. In this Park, we propose to create indigenous strain of bulls, cows and goats and cross-bred cows and distribute them to farmers. Tamil Nadu will come to be known as the State having the biggest livestock park in the whole of Asia.

The only Government in India that got clearance for 11 Government Medical Colleges in just one year is Amma's Government. Our Government has declared the delta area as 'Protected Agriculture Zone' to establish delta irrigation farmers' right to voice their grievances. The Tamil Nadu Government is implementing all the schemes needed for agriculturists. Our aim is the prosperity of agriculturists and agriculture labourers. Hence, our Government is realizing the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi Adigal, Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R and Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. I wish to state that this scheme for which the foundation stone has been laid will be completed in 11 months and its inauguration will also be held shortly.

I thank all the participants in this event - agriculturists, agriculture labourers, members of the general public, PWD officials who toiled day and night for the conduct of this function in an excellent manner, the District collector, all Department officials, Hon'ble Ministers, MPs and MLAs, representatives of local bodies, co-operative societies and the executives of all agriculture associations – and take leave of you.

Nandri! Vanakkam.

Amma's Government 'fosters Tamil in manifold ways'

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on
International Mother Language Day *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Amma's Government is celebrating 'International Mother Language Day' on February 21 by conducting poet's forums and seminars to make the younger generation know the greatness of the Tamil language and by way of fostering it, the world's oldest language.

For the growth of the Tamil language, to preserve and protect the welfare of Tamil scholars and to encourage Tamil organizations/ Associations, the Tamil Nadu Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is distributing awards and has increased their number to 72. The awards instituted include those in the names of Thamizh Thai, Kapilar, Kambar, U.Ve.Sa, Sollin Selvar, G.U.Pope, Umarupulavar, Ilango Adigal, Singaravelar, Maraimalai Adigal and Ayothee Dhassa Pandithar, a 'Chief Minister's Tamil Computing Award' for the growth of computer Tamil, 'Amma Literary Award' to honour women writers, 'Tamil Chemmal Award' for Tamil enthusiasts District-wise, 'Best Translator Award', Madurai World Tamil Sangam's awards for literature, grammar and linguistics to honour Tamil scholars residing abroad and 'Arutperunjothi Vallalar Award', 'Devaneya Pavanar Award', 'Arulnirai Karaikal Ammaiyar Award' 'Veeramamunivar Award' and three new awards in the name of Si.Pa. Aditanar for daily newspaper, weekly and monthly magazines to encourage further Tamil scholars.

In appreciation of the services of those who toiled for the development of the Tamil language, the Tamil Nadu Government is giving a monthly pension of Rs.4,500 to '*Ellai Kavalargal*' (border sentinels) who had participated in the agitation to defend Tamil Nadu's borders when States were re-organized linguistically, Rs.2,500 to their heirs, Rs.3,500 to Tamil scholars, Rs.2,000 to their heirs and Rs.2,500 to aged Tamil scholars and their heirs.

To benefit overseas Tamils and to document the greatness of Tamil language through research on its antiquity, literature, grammar and culture and publicize it all over the world, the Tamil Nadu Government presented Rs.10 crore to set up a Chair for Tamil language in Harvard University and Rs.1 crore for a Chair in Houston University. By way of commemorating the creation of the State of Tamil Nadu on 01.11.1956, a declaration was made to celebrate November 1st every year as 'Tamil Nadu Day' and it was celebrated all over the State last year on 01.11.2019.

On this joyous 'International Mother Language Day', I extend my greetings to Tamil scholars, serving for the development of Tamil language, Tamil enthusiasts and Tamil organizations. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had stated: "Tamil is a magnificent symbol of our race, country and culture". The Tamil Nadu Government that functions in her footsteps is protecting the Tamil language and developing Tamil Nadu in the way she charted. On this day, let us engage in constructive works with a determination that we should all protect our language as we protect our eyes.

Vaazhga! Valarga! Tamil, the mother of world languages!

Massive campaign to plant 72 lakh saplings begins on Amma's 72nd birth anniversary

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, in commemoration of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's 72nd birth anniversary, launched a massive tree planting campaign of 72 lakh saplings throughout the State, by planting a tree sapling in front of the Secretariat on 24.02.2020.

The Tamil Nadu Government has been implementing a massive tree planting programme throughout the State by planting tree saplings in large numbers in vacant areas outside forests, apart from forest areas in the State. In connection with Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's birth anniversary, during the year 2012, 64 lakh saplings were planted throughout the State. This massive tree planting scheme continued successfully year after year.

In 2013, 65 lakh saplings were planted, in 2014, 66 lakh saplings; in 2015, 67 lakh saplings; in 2016, 68 lakh saplings; in 2017, 69 lakh saplings; in 2018, 70 lakh saplings and in 2019, 71 lakh saplings were planted.

This massive tree planting campaign has been well received by various sections of people. In the current year also, in connection with the 72nd birth anniversary of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, 72 lakh saplings will be planted throughout Tamil Nadu.

This massive tree planting campaign will begin in February and end before this year-end. These saplings will be planted in forest areas, schools and colleges, Government and private office complexes, road-sides, parks and in multi-storied housing complexes, and taken care of.

Under the scheme, tree saplings which are suitable to the climate and soil health of the State such as *Iluppai, Punnai, Mandarai, Pungan, Magizhum, Poovarasu* and *Vembu* will be planted. The scheme will be implemented jointly by the Environment and Forests Department and the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens Manimandapam for Dr. B. Sivanthi Aditanar, pays tribute

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edapaddi K. Palaniswami** after declaring open Dr.B.Sivanthi Aditanar Manimandapam at Veerapandiapattinam, Tiruchendur Taluk, Thoothukkudi District on 22.02.2020 *(English Trasnslation)*.

I bow to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

First, my gratefulness to God for the good fortune given to me to declare open the Manimandapam for the respected Dr.B.Sivanthi Aditanar, constructed at Veerapandiapattinam village, Tiruchendur Taluk, Thoothukkudi District and deliver a speech. Dr. B. Sivanthi Aditanar was a great achiever in many fields like print media, sports, education and industry in the Indian sub-continent. I am extremely happy to declare open the Manimandapam erected for him by the Tamil Nadu Government by way of honouring him.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister brother Thiru. Panneerselvam who has delivered the presidential address in this function, Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity brother Thiru. Kadambur Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology, Respected brother Thiru.K.Pandiarajan, Hon'ble Minister Thiru.Dindigul C. Sreenivasan, Hon'ble Ministers Thiruvalargal Sellur K. Raju, M.C.Sampath, R.B.Udhayakumar, K.T.Rajenthrabhalaji, Dr. C. Vijayabaskar and Tmt.Rajalakshmi, Special Representative at Delhi Thiru.Thalavai Sundaram, MLA of this Constituency and former Minister Thiru.S.P.Shanmuganathan, Chief Secretary to Government Respected Thiru.K.Shanmugam who has delivered the welcome address, Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Information Thiru.Mahesan Kasirajan, Director, Department of Information and Public Relations Dr.P.Sankar, District Collector who is to propose a vote of thanks, Director, 'Thinathanthi' newspaper

Thiru.S. Balasubramanian Adithan, his sons Thiru. Adavan Adithan, Thiru.Sivanthi Adithan and other members of the family, Member of Parliament Tmt.Vijila Sathyananth, Thiru.Vijayakumar, Respected Thiru. Vasanthakumar, former Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha and former Union Minister Thiru. Thambidurai, Kadayanallur MLA Respected Thiru.Muhammed Abubacker, former minister Thiru.S.T. Chellapandian, former MP Thiru. Manoj Pandian, President of the Samathuva Makkal Katchi, actor Thiru. Sarathkumar, President of New Justice Party brother. Thiru.A.C.Shanmugam, President, Makkal Katchi Thiru.N.R.Dhanapalan, Chairman of VGP Group Thiru.V.G.Santhosham, Samathuva Makkal Kazhagam Thiru. Ernavur Narayanan, Respected brother John Pandian, Respected Thiru.Vaikundarajan, Respected Thiru. Vikrama Raja, MPs, MLAs, former MPs and MLAs, Industrialists, Chairman of the District committee of trustees Thiru.P. Mohan, President of the District Central Co-operative Bank Thiru. R.Sudhakar, President Aavin Thiru. Chinnadurai, President of the District Co-operative Printing Press Thiru. Anburaj, District Panchayat President Thiru.R.Sathya, Chairman of the Tiruchendur Panchayat Union Tmt. Selvi Vadamalai Pandian, District Panchayat Member Tmt.A.Bramha Sakthi, President of the Veerapandiapattinam Panchayat Thiru.M.Ellamuthu, Vice Chairman of the Union Thiru. Regiford Fernando, Executives and Presidents of the different organizations of Nadar community, Elders, Ladies, Newspersons, Media personnel and AIADMK cadre in different posts – at the outset, my respects to all of you.

We should not forget that the sacrifices of many freedom fighters and the selfless service of achievers give the impetus for our country's growth. One such achiever was the honourable and respected late Dr. B.Sivanthi Aditanar.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma gained the esteem of people by creating memorials, memorial houses, commemoration pillars and Manimandapams to honour Leaders and Scholars who had served the country greatly and sacrificed in many ways, as also to make the younger generation know about their sacrifices in the direction shown by her, Hon'ble Amma's Government has declared open in the last 9 years 20 memorial, life-size statues of 4 leaders, a commemoration pillar and 2 memorial arches. Besides, Government honours 47 leaders on their birth and death anniversaries by garlanding their statues and paying respect to them to convey to the world the greatness of those magnificent leaders. The Government

has made public its intention to construct memorials for 11 'tyagis' and works are being carried out. Accordingly, I am extremely happy to have declared open the completed Manimandapam of the late, respected Dr.B.Sivanthi Aditanar today.

Respected late Dr.B.Sivanthi Aditanar was born on September 24, 1936 as the second son of the Thiru.Si.Pa. Aditanar-Govindammal couple. He studied in Ramakrishna High School, Chennai, continued his higher education in Presidency college and came out with a B.A. Degree. Not only was he the commander of the college National Cadet Corps but also the commander of NCC in all colleges in Chennai city.

His father Thiru. Si.Pa.Aditanar started a daily for common people with the name 'Thanthi' with the declaration, 'Read the day's news on the same day' on 15.10.1942, at Madurai. He started the same daily in Chennai with the name 'Daily Thanthi' and paved the way for greater newspaper readership.

A Tamil adage says that the nature of a crop can be known when the seed sprouts (*Vilaiyum payir Mulaiyile*). In accordance with this proverb, during his school days, Thiru. Sivanthi Aditanar, gave a humorous tidbit to his father for publication in Daily Thanthi. The tidbit plays upon a letter in Tamil language, used for elongation of a consonant. It goes as follows: Teacher to student – I asked you to write '*Paambu*' (snake) but you have written '*Pambu* (without the vowel elongation, which in Tamil is called '*Kaal*', also meaning leg). Student - Sir, the snake does not have legs !

Realizing his son's interest in the newspaper, Thiru. C.P. Aditanar groomed his son in the newspaper industry as his heir. After Thiru. Sivanthi Adithan completed his graduation in 1958, he was given training in the newspaper field. The training was on the lines of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s song – "*Paaloottum annai aval nadamaadum deivam/arivoottum thanthai nalvazhi kaattum thalaivan*" ("Mother who suckles is God in human form; the father who educates is the leader guiding one on the correct path") – and covered all aspects of the newspaper field, from assembling letter types to printing , packaging, reporting and working as sub-editor. Later Thiru. Sivanthi Aditan went to Tirunelveli and started 'Malai Murasu' daily. His tireless work saw 'Malai Murasu' flower into a popular daily. In consequence, daily's editions of 'Malai Murasu' appeared in other Districts.

Dr. B.Sivanthi Aditanar became a master in all fields of newspaper publication. Seeing his work, his father put him in charge of the administration of Daily Thanthi in 1959. At that time Daily Thanthi was published only from three places – Chennai, Madurai and Tiruchi.

Because of Dr. B. Sivanthi Aditanar's administrative skill, the daily grew every day and now it is being successfully published from 15 cities, including Bengaluru, Mumbai and Puducherry. It is no exaggeration to say that the credit for this goes to Dr. B. Sivanthi Aditanar.

Presiding over the silver jubilee celebrations of Daily Thanthi, Perarignar Anna said: "It is difficult to start an establishment. But there is a danger that it may collapse very quickly however ably established, if the person to whom it is entrusted does not show an iota of interest in it."

"Without encountering such a situation, if 'Daily Thanthi', established by Thiru. Aditanar is developing well and is sought after by thousands of readers, our respected friend Aditanar's son Sivanthi Aditanar who

has taken over the administration has his due share in it.”

“ Aditanar has not only given us a good establishment but has also given birth to a worthy son to run that establishment. This is a proof of his special distinction”, said Anna about Thiru. Sivanthi Aditanar.

If we ponder over Daily Thanthi’s march today towards its centenary with a crore of its readers, we can understand how Perarignar Anna’s statement is totally correct.

Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. said: “Thiru. Sivanthi Aditanar is not only maintaining the establishment set up by Thiru. Aditanar but is developing it in a praiseworthy manner”.

“Dr. Sivanthi Aditanar is instrumental in spreading the reading habit to the common people also through the Daily Thanthi newspaper. He is an excellent sportsperson. In my earlier rule, his exemplary work as Vice-Chairman in the Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority deserves special mention. He is unassuming and affable,” said Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Besides Daily Thanthi, a weekly magazine “Rani” was also started in 1962. If Thiru. Aditanar took his daily to the commoner, the late Dr.B.Sivanthi Aditanar was instrumental in creating the weekly magazine reading habit among the rural masses. On the heels of ‘Rani’ magazine, ‘Rani Muthu’ and ‘Rani Comics’ were also brought out. ‘Rani Muthu’ calendars are today adorning the houses of Tamils; it was Thiru.B.Sivanthi Adithan who published them.

He established many educational institutions in the Tiruchendur region and helped the poor get educated.

“The youth should study. Only then will the country develop. I am prepared to construct school buildings wherever they are absent”, declared late Thiru. Sivanthi Aditanar. Not only did he say that, he backed his words with action. He liberally funded the starting of numerous new schools and the construction of school and college buildings. It was respected Sivanthi Aditanar who constructed the Si.Pa. Aditanar Centenary Building in Nellai Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, on a 15,000 sq. ft. area.

When Puratchi Thalaivar Ponmana Chemmal Dr.M.G.R. launched the Nutritious Meals Scheme for poor children, it was respected late Dr.Sivanthi Aditanar who built the first nutritious meals centre in the name of his father Si.Pa.Aditanar at Tiruchi Pappakurichi.

His interest in sports development matched his passion for educational development.

He was president of the Tamil Nadu Olympic Association and was elected President of the Indian Olympic Association in 1987. He brought name and fame to India when he was the vice president of Asian Olympic Association by getting that Association many International Olympic Association awards. He was selected the Life President of the Indian Olympic Association on November 3rd, 2000.

Hon’ble Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. honoured Thiru. Sivanthi Aditanar by appointing him the Sheriff of Chennai city in 1982 and 1983. The Union Government conferred the Padma Shri award on him in 2008 for his excellent services in the fields of literature and education. Many universities conferred the doctorate degree on him.

At the centenary celebrations of Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R, held in Thoothukkudi District on 22.11.2017,

I announced that the State Government would construct a Manimandapam at Veerapandiapattinam Village, Tiruchendur Taluk, Thoothukkudi District for Dr. B.Sivanthi Aditanar who had established himself as a great achiever in many fields like the print media, sports, education and industry. I said that in this way we would be honouring his greatness and fame and providing him a permanent niche in history, and also enlightening future generations about his services.

To implement that announcement, I laid the foundation on 10.10.2018 for the Manimandapam to be erected on a 60 cent plot at a cost of Rs.1,34,28,000 Construction works were completed quickly and I am extremely happy to declare it open today.

Hon'ble Amma demonstrated several times that the AIADMK Government would not stop with just promises but would implement the promises immediately. We have been trained by her and I am happy to state that we function on the motto, "We will implement what we have stated and also things we have not stated".

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and our Government have provided countless schemes to all sections of people in Tamil Nadu to make the State a model State. Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many schemes in each District for their development and people's welfare.

I wish to outline some of the achievements of Hon'ble Amma's Government in Thoothukkudi District in the last 3 years:

- Women born in poor families could not get married at the marriageable age on account of their poverty. Changing that situation, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma brought in a wonderful scheme - 'Gold for Thali' - and today, in Thoothukkudi District alone Rs.23.31 crore has been disbursed under the marriage assistance scheme to 4,399 beneficiaries at the rate of Rs.25,000 to each beneficiary.
- Likewise, Amma's Government has allotted Rs.42 crore for distributing Rs.50,000 each to 5,378 persons with 8 gms of gold for *Thaali*. So, Amma's Government, I am happy to say is a Government that helps women who are born in poor families get married at the marriageable age.
- Rain water in the monsoon period is wastefully draining into the sea. To conserve that water, and to carry out Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi's wishes and realize her dream, our Government has brought in the 'kudimaramathu' scheme. In Thoothukkudi District alone, 39 works were taken up and lakes and tanks were dredged at a cost of Rs.10 crore through this scheme and today we see that all these water bodies are brimming with water. Now 28 more works have been taken up and Rs.11.5 crore has been set apart for it. When lakes and tanks get filled up like this in villages, agriculturists will have enough water to take up their works. Drinking water problem too will be solved totally and permanently. With this idea only 'kudimaramathu' scheme was implemented.
- During the 2016 Assembly election, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma stated that two wheelers would be given to working women as soon as AIADMK Government was formed. Hon'ble Amma, however passed away before the launch of that scheme. Still, by way of implementing that scheme, Amma's Government provided Rs.13.75 crore subsidy in Thoothukkudi District alone to distribute two wheelers to 5,489 beneficiaries.

- At present, laptops are not distributed at no cost even in super power countries. But Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma felt that even students from poor families in Tamil Nadu should get education of global standards, the best of knowledge at the International level, improve their general knowledge, take up technical education and go to jobs and to get such an education, students should be given laptops. Amma's Government felt that even brilliant students might miss such an education on account of their economic conditions and decided to take upon itself the entire cost of laptops and distribute them. In the whole of India, Amma's Government is the only Government that is distributing laptops at no cost to students. In this District, 16,162 laptops, costing Rs.19.5 crore have been distributed to students.
- Likewise, for the development of the village economy, to help the poor, agricultural labourers and women workers to stand on their own feet financially and determine their living standards on their own, Hon'ble Amma, with a visionary outlook, implemented the scheme of distribution of goats, sheep and milch cows. Through this scheme, 10,327 beneficiaries in this District have been helped to an extent of Rs.13.5 crore.
- Further, bicycles at no cost and the Chief Minister Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme. During Hon'ble Amma's time, treatment in private hospitals was subject to a ceiling of Rs.2 lakh. On requests from people, this ceiling has been increased to Rs.5 lakh.
- Under the Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Assistance Scheme, Rs.47 crore has been distributed to 49,811 pregnant women in Thoothukkudi District.
- *Thai*' means festival time for Tamils. Hon'ble Amma announced a Pongal

package so that all can celebrate *Thai Pongal* festival in a grand manner. Amma's Government is the only Government that distributed to all family card holders Rs.1,000 each along with the Pongal package of rice, sugar, cashew, raisins and cardamom, at no cost.

- Crop loans to the extent of Rs.188 crore have been distributed to small and micro farmers in this District.
- As fishing ban period relief, Rs.22 crore has been distributed to 19,232 fishermen families.
- It is Amma's Government that has distributed Rs.25 crore assistance to 22,482 fisherwomen under the Tamil Nadu Marine Fisherwomen Savings cum Relief Scheme.
- The Green House scheme is being implemented in an excellent manner.
- Through the Highways Department, we have repaired many roads.
- Construction works for 3 fire service stations at Tiruchendur, Sathankulam and Vilathikulam are going on at a cost of Rs.3.11 crore.
- Through the public works Department, many schemes have been implemented. Here too, construction of a check dam across Thamirabarani river at Mukkani at a cost of Rs.25.75 crore has been completed.
- Works on constructing a check dam across Vaipparu in Vembaru area at a cost of Rs.18 crore are going on. Like these, many schemes are being implemented by Amma's Government in Thoothukkudi District.
- Under the 'Smart City' scheme, many schemes are being carried out in Thoothukkudi Municipal Corporation area.

Moreover, I have laid the foundation stone through this wonderful event for 47 schemes valued at Rs.260.06 crore inclusive of Thoothukkudi Corporation works costing Rs.102.97 crore, works of Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board costing Rs.72.22 crore and Electricity Board works costing Rs.34 crore. Today is a wonderful day. On this good day, the foundation stone has been laid for these schemes.

I am happy to state that I have inaugurated today 15 works, costing Rs.71.90 crore inclusive of Water Supply and Drainage Board works costing Rs.23.57 crore and Health Department works costing Rs.18.63 crore. Likewise, after the conclusion of this event I am to declare open a cath lab costing Rs.3.5 crore at the Thoothukkudi Government Medical College Hospital.

I have also distributed, on behalf of different Departments, welfare assistance valued at about Rs.32.42 crore to 6,944 beneficiaries.

At the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar's centenary function in this District, I made 35 announcements. Of these 15 have been implemented; the remaining 20 are at various stages of implementation.

Hon'ble Amma's Government continues to develop in all sectors. Each of its Departments is competing with others in amassing awards. Tamil Nadu has topped the good governance index. We are not like some people. Unlike verbal heroes who hurl promises that cannot be implemented, Hon'ble Amma's Government announces schemes that are feasible and implements them. This reminds me of a story.

Three persons joined together and purchased a lottery ticket. They decided to give an equal share to God if they got the prize. After a few days, it was announced that their ticket

had won the prize. Before collecting their prize money, all the three had only one thought; they decided not to honour their earlier statement of sharing the money with God. They were pondering on how to dodge the promise given in haste to God. When they thought what should be the share and how much could be given to God, one of them said: “ Let us draw a small circle; we will throw all the money we receive in the air and whatever falls within the circle, it is God’s.” The second person protested: “No, No. Let us draw a very big circle; standing in the centre of the circle, let us throw the money in the air; whatever falls outside the circle, that is for God”. Listening the two, the third person said: “ What is this? Small and big circles; let us throw the money upwards; whatever stays in the space above, it is for God; whatever falls down it is for us!”.

They were not only bereft of any virtue but also arrogant and thought that they were cleverer than God. Some people like these persons won the just concluded parliament election by enticing people falsely with assurances that could not be carried out at all. Like the three persons mentioned above, they did not honour their words but are now giving different explanations. But people who have understood them punished them in the recently held by-elections and panchayat elections. I assert that people will continue to do so in future also.

It is said that if the mother leaps 8 feet, the cub will leap 16 feet. But in the case of Dr. Sivanthi Aditan, if he had leapt 8 feet, his son, Thiru. Balasubramanian Adithan has now leapt not 16 feet but 32 feet and has given full cooperation to the District administration in all respects, from the time of announcement of construction of the Manimandapam – from foundation laying to the opening of the Manimandapam. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Thiru. Balasubramanian Adithan for this. He has brought glory to the Daily Thanthi Group started by his grandfather Si.Pa. Aditanar and his father Dr. Sivanthi Aditanar, as the first Tamil Publication to have been brought out in foreign countries like Dubai and Sri Lanka.

I have heard that Thiru. Balasubramanian’s grandfather ‘Thamizhar Thanthai’ Si.Pa. Aditanar was an excellent journalist. His father Sivanthi Adithan was a great administrator. Thiru. Balasubramanian Adithan has inherited the traits of both his grandfather and father and shines as a good journalist and administrator. The proof is ‘Daily Thanthi’ ‘D.T.Next’ English paper, ‘Malaimalar’, ‘Thanthi TV, ‘Hello F.M.’ and some other weeklies and monthlies, functioning under his administration. Now, he is training his sons Sivanthi Adithan and Adhavan Adithan. I wish these two youths a shining future in the newspaper field like their great grandfather, grandfather and father.

Already, respected Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister has referred to it. Today, if there is a community which has spread all over, not only in Tamil Nadu but in the country and is engaged in business activity, we can say it is the Nadar community. They are born to work in whichever corner of the land they go. To take forward the interests of that community that thrives only on its efforts, a person is born, even though in the same community, and he lives and dies. When an assessment is made as to what he has done in his life for his community and for the country, the late Dr. B.Sivanthi Aditanar stands out as one who has done what he said. His achievements are permanently etched on the earth. That is why a sea of people have turned up for this function and the auditorium is overflowing. The tributes paid to a person

after his demise are the prize given for his achievements. That prize is being offered by the people seated here. Not only that. We see here today that Mother Nature herself is blessing the occasion with her showers showing that the deeds of good people are remembered even though they are no more.

As the speakers who preceded me mentioned, the Nadar community is sizeable in my constituency also. In my Edappadi Assembly constituency, my friend Thiru.Mathesh from the Nadar community was elected twice as Chairman of Edappadi Panchayat Union. Now too, his wife Tmt. M.Kuppammal is holding the Chairman's post in Edappadi Union. As such, this community is supporting the AIADMK in a big way today. It is those belonging to this community who stood by us in the days of Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and after the passing of these leaders, they are standing by us. I wish to point out that we feel proud to participate in the events of the people of this community, before making new announcements in this event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The project to construct a groyne at Alanthalai, Tiruchendur Taluk, Thoothukkudi District at a cost of Rs.52.46 crore, will be implemented.
2. I am happy to inform that work stage-IV of the Thamirabarani-Karumeniyaru-Nambiyaru link scheme will be started shortly and completed before the end of this year. The Link scheme is designed to divert the flood waters of Thamirabarani river to drought areas for the benefit of irrigated lands.
3. A check dam will be newly constructed across Karumeniyaru at Amarapuram village, Tiruchendur Taluk,Thoothukkudi District at a cost of Rs.3.70 crore.
4. For Tiruchendur Taluk, Thoothukkudi District, a new Taluk office will be constructed at a cost of Rs.3.30 crore.
5. A new Taluk office will be constructed for Sathankulam Taluk in the District at a cost of Rs.3.30 crore.
6. A new office building will be constructed for the Thoothukkudi District Co-operative Milk Producers Union at Aniyaparanallur at a cost of Rs.2 crore. Setting up a dairy farm there will be examined.
7. Combined water supply scheme development works for the town panchayats of Kadambur, Vilathikulam, Pudur and 180 Villages will be undertaken at a cost of Rs.10.85 crore.
8. Shandies in Sathankulam and Thiruvaikundam Town Panchayats will be upgraded at a cost of Rs.One crore each, that of Tiruchendur Town Panchayat at a cost of Rs.2 crore and that of Udangudi Town Panchayat at a cost of Rs.5 crore.
9. I wish to inform through this event the happy news that water supply development works will be carried out at a cost of Rs.80 lakh for Azhwarthirunagari, at a cost of Rs.20 lakh for Nazareth and at a cost of Rs.1.60 crore for Perungulam.

Thanking this District's Hon'ble Minister Respected Thiru. Kadambur Raju who was a great support for the conduct of this event with elegance and excellence, MLA and former Minister Thiru.S.P. Shanmuganathan who stood by the Minister, as also the District Collector and high officials of this Department, I take leave of you.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens cricket ground at Vazhapadi, assures help for holding IPL match

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** after declaring open a cricket ground established by the Salem Cricket Foundation at Kattuveppilaipatti in Vazhapadi, Salem District, on 09.02.2020 *(English translation)*

I bow to Goddess Hon'ble Amma.

I am extremely happy to inaugurate this marvellous cricket ground established by the Salem Cricket Foundation at Vazhapadi.

Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Youth Welfare and Sports Development, Thiru.K. A.Sengottaiyan, who has come to grace the occasion,

Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation, Thiru. Sellur Raju,

Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise, Thiru. P.Thangamani,

Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development and Implementation of Special Programme, Thiru. S.P.Velumani,

Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Disaster Management and Information Technology, Thiru. R.B.Udhayakumar,

Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries, Thiru. P.Benjamin,

Vice Chairman and Managing Director of India Cements and former Chairman of TNCA and BCCI, Thiru. N. Srinivasan, who has made this region a centre of resurgence, and made the whole of Tamil Nadu shift its gaze towards Vazhapadi,

Respected Tmt. Rupa Gurunath, the newly elected President of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association, whose first official assignment, I think, is this function,

Director of the National Cricket Academy and former Indian Cricketer, Thiru. Rahul Dravid, who has taken part in this function amidst cricket enthusiasts who have gathered in large numbers, and spoken in this ground with the intention of involving and motivating youngsters in this game so that they bring fame to this District and to Tamil Nadu and make India a byword for world class cricket.

Hon'ble Rajya Sabha Member, Hon'ble MLAs, Respected District Collector, Hon'ble former Ministers, former MPs and MLAs, office-bearers of the Salem District Cricket Association and Salem Cricket Foundation, cricket players, who have been specially responsible for organizing this function in a spirited and excellent manner, elders and ladies, friends from the press and the visual media.

At the outset, I extend my warm welcome to you all.

Hon'ble Amma's Government, following the path of Hon'ble Amma, is giving as much importance to sports as to education as the present generation of youth needs to grow not only intellectually but also in physical health and mental strength.

I would like to list out some of the achievements made in the sports field by Amma's Government for winning more awards and medals at the national and international level by creating high quality sports infrastructure, fostering games culture among the people and encouraging youth at the lower strata of society and inculcating sporting talent among them.

For the South Asian Sports event in 1995 in Chennai, Hon'ble Amma's Government created the world class Jawaharlal Nehru Sports Stadium, Nehru Indoor Stadium, Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium, Nungambakkam Tennis Stadium and Velachery Aquatic complex. All these sports facilities have been further developed with modern facilities.

In the year 2005, the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University was inaugurated by Hon'ble Amma.

By the efforts of Hon'ble Amma, the World Chess Championship was held in Chennai in the year 2013.

Government order was issued facilitating 3 per cent reservation in job opportunities in Government and Public Sector undertakings for sportspersons. So far 3 internationally

renowned sportspersons have been given appointment orders.

The Government honours sportspersons who win medals in the Olympic, Asia, Commonwealth and South Asian Sports Games by giving them high incentive amount.

This incentive is also given to trainers who train these winning sportspersons.

So far 925 sportspersons and trainers have been given incentives to the tune of Rs.49.26 crore by Amma's Government, with a view to encouraging them.

Twelve sportsmen and sportswomen with prospects of getting medals in Olympic and International events are selected and given an incentive of Rs. 25 lakh each every year by the Government.

This amount is given to enable the sportspersons go abroad for training and also to invite trainers from abroad for training them, purchasing sports equipment, sportswear and for taking nutritious food.

Hon'ble Amma's Government has been implementing all these schemes for the development of sports activities in the State.

In the year 1992, Hon'ble Amma started the Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority similar to Sports Authority of India, by integrating the Youth and Sports Training Department with Tamil Nadu Sports Corporation, to develop sports and inculcate interest in sports among youth.

I am happy to inform through this function that due to steps taken by the Authority many youth from Tamil Nadu are able to participate in national and international sports events and create records.

To improve the health and mental strength of youth in rural areas, to create team spirit among them, and also to encourage sporting talent and bring it out, Amma's Government has launched an excellent scheme known as 'Amma Youth Sports Scheme' in 12,524 Village Panchayats and 528 Town Panchayats, at a cost of Rs. 76.23 crore.

Through this scheme, playgrounds are being set up for Cricket, Kabaddi, Volleyball and Badminton in Village Panchayats and Town Panchayats, through a Government order. Work on these playgrounds is to be speedily completed. The Scheme will be implemented by granting sports accessories, training and sports equipment to the local bodies continuously for one year. Tournaments will be conducted at Union, District and State level and winners will be given prizes.

In this age, cricket is a game that all sections of people enjoy and play. Under the Amma Youth Sports Scheme, Village youth are encouraged to play cricket in more numbers in the grounds established in Villages. I am confident that through these measures more Village youth will find their place in the State as well as all-India level cricket teams. In addition to these measures, the Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority has set up 3 sports hostels for cricket for school students.

The Chepauk Ground and the stadium in Chennai are maintained by the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association. Three stands of the stadium were not in use for a long time due to some issues. These issues have not been

resolved by the Government. At this juncture, I request respected Srinivasan and other office-bearers of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association through this function to take immediate steps to utilize the entire stadium for viewing the game by fans.

The present ground, set up in Vazhapadi, near Salem Town at a cost of Rs.3 crore is a boon for the cricket lovers of this area. An environment has been created wherein not only people in this area but cricket lovers from all over the District can make use of this ground. On this occasion, I appeal to Salem Cricket Foundation to organize cricket tournaments in this ground to encourage youth to participate in more numbers.

When the respected elder Thiru.Srinivasan was the Chairman of the Cricket Association, he created many records. Thiru. Srinivasan was extremely popular not only in the State but also at the international level so much so one can speak of him as Father of Cricket. This is the extent of his love towards cricket. Only because of him have we been able to get the present cricket ground. Thiru. Srinivasan had made an announcement in this function that IPL cricket match will be conducted in this ground. I am truly happy to welcome his statement. As far as I know, IPL matches are held only in Chennai. IPL matches were not conducted in any other District outside Chennai. I thank Thiru.Srinivasan on your behalf, on behalf of cricket lovers of this area, and on my behalf for his announcement that IPL match will be conducted in the newly formed ground at Vazhapadi.

Thiru. Srinivasan appealed for the State's help in organizing the IPL matches and wanted the State to stand by them. He pointed out that if IPL matches are to be held in this ground, it should be provided with additional facilities and necessary infrastructure. I would like to assure Mr. Srinivasan that the State Government will stand with him in providing the necessary facilities in organizing IPL matches.

As far as Tamil Nadu youth are concerned, they are sporting champions as they play every game with enthusiasm and with the urge to win. Today Jallikattu events are conducted in various places. There was a time when Jallikattu was held only in some places, that too in the Southern Districts. But today, Jallikattu, which is considered as a daring game, is conducted in many parts of Tamil Nadu and the youth are participating actively. The events are telecast by many channels. Youth are taking part in Jallikattu and showing their skill. Recently, at the internationally famed Alanganallur Jallikattu, a single youth tamed 16 bulls. We presented him a Hyundai car. The youth, born in Tamil soil, has tamed 16 bulls in a single round and established the greatness of the traditional game of Tamil Nadu. I am happy to inform that our youth are capable of showing their talent in all games. This ground has been set up in a rural area in natural surroundings. I appeal to the youth in this District and those in the neighbouring Districts to make the best use of the ground and make it world famous.

I extend my congratulations and give my best wishes to those who made excellent arrangements for the success of this programme.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon’ble Chief Minister lays stone for IT, ITeS complex, another milestone project for State

Address of the Hon’ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami on 23.01.2020, after laying the foundation stone for the DLF Downtown Chennai complex, to be developed jointly by Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) and Delhi Land and Finance Ltd., (DLF) , at Taramani in Chennai for housing information technology firms *(English Translation)*

Bowing to Hon’ble Amma,

Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam,

Hon’ble Minister for Industries Thiru. M.C.Sampath, who is participating in the function,

Principal Secretary for Industries Thiru. N.Muruganandam,

Chairman and the Managing Director of the TIDCO Tmt. Kakarla Usha,

Managing Director of DLF Thiru. Sriram Khattar,

Chief Executive Officer of DLF Thiru. Mohit Gujral,

MPs and MLAs who are participating in the function, Industrialists and friends from the Print and visual media,

At the outset I extend my heartiest welcome to you all.

I am extremely happy to participate in the foundation stone laying function of the Downtown Chennai complex, a joint venture project of the TIDCO and DLF, for housing IT and ITeS organizations under one roof. This is going to be yet another milestone in the industrialization of Tamil Nadu.

I congratulate everyone for making this new beginning today. This event marks an example for the commitment of Puratchi

Thalaivi Amma's Government in co-ordinating all the stakeholders in a very positive manner to further promote industrial growth in the State.

Due to the constant efforts of my Government, many new investment projects are being commenced successfully in Tamil Nadu. Within a span of one year, we are able to support the beginning of commercial production of 59 GIM Projects. Another 213 projects are under various stages of implementation.

'Arumbum Viyarvai Uthirthu- Puvi Mel
Aayiram Thozhil Seithiduveer',

said Mahakavi Bharathiyar. In keeping with this verse of Bharathiyar, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government has been attracting many new industrial investments making Tamil Nadu the primary State in the industrial sector.

After the successful completion of the Global Investors' Meet, so far 63 Memorandum of Understandings have been signed attracting an investment of Rs. 19,000 crore. Through these MoUs, about 83,000 employment opportunities have been created.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said:

"I am functioning with a long term perspective of making Tamil Nadu the major global manufacturing centre. This Government is actively involved in attaining this objective. It is of the firm opinion that this can be achieved through the best governance in the State. This Government is confident of making Tamil Nadu the forerunner of the new growth in India".

The present Government, which is following the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, have been taking various measures to make Tamil Nadu the best in industrialization.

To get suggestions from global Tamils for improving the Tamil Nadu's industrial growth further and to give red-carpet reception to overseas Tamils coming to start industries in Tamil Nadu, I personally inaugurated a new scheme called 'Yadhum Oorey' in the United States of America. During the visit, I met industrial investors in England, the US and Dubai and signed MoUs with 41 establishments, attracting investments to the tune of Rs. 8,835 crore. These agreements are likely to create new employment opportunities to 35,520 people. Of these companies, 5 have already commenced their operation.

A high power committee has been constituted under my chairmanship to monitor and expedite the single window clearance through the Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act.

This Committee has so far given various permissions to 36 industrial schemes, worth Rs. 14,728 crore. This may soon create new employment opportunities to 22,763 people.

A separate section has been created in the Chief Minister's Office to facilitate investments easy.

An Aerospace and Defence Industrial Park and an Electric Vehicle Park are to be started.

The Tamil Nadu Government has unveiled a separate policy to encourage Start-up industries, an Information Technology policy and an Aerospace and Defence industrial policy for improvement of industrial sector in the State. Amma's Government has succeeded in implementing those policies.

The Al Kharafi company of Kuwait is to start a modern petroleum refinery unit to manufacture petroleum products in compliance with BS-VI emission norms adhering to environmental standards and a Petro chemical unit at Thoothukudi with an investment of Rs. 49,000 crore. These petro chemical units will pave the way for tremendous growth of southern Districts of Tamil Nadu similar to Jurong Island in Singapore and Jamnagar and Dahej of Gujarat.

Besides, one of the biggest Electric Vehicle manufacturing units BYD and the biggest Mobile phone manufacturing unit Wingtech have decided to make investments in Tamil Nadu.

Salcom Company entered into an agreement to purchase Nokia's factory that had been shut down due to industrial problems for producing electronic equipment.

Like these, conditions have been created in the State, where many units that were closed down in the past due to various reasons are being revived due to consistent efforts of my Government.

Similarly, as a proof of this Government's good governance, the Central Government has placed the State as the first in the Good Governance Index for the year 2019. This was based on 50 point index taken from 10

Departments including Agriculture, Industries, Human Resource Development, Public Health, Infrastructure, and Social Welfare schemes.

The State's direct foreign investment was of the order of Rs. 1.33 lakh crore till a few years ago, which has increased to Rs.1.80 lakh crore in the last 3 years. I am proud to say that this Amma Government has attracted about Rs.47,000 crore additional investments in the State.

The country's premier magazine, India Today, in its survey report, selected Tamil Nadu in the first place for overall performance for the second year in succession.

Similarly, Frost and Sullivan in its research report has given the second place for overall performance for the second year in succession.

IT sector has been on a steady growth momentum in Tamil Nadu. The State is India's leader in the 'Software as Service' area. The broad industrial base, highly qualified and skilled manpower, well developed infrastructure, surplus power position are some of the key strengths of the State.

Tamil Nadu is the third largest exporter and also has the highest number of operating Special Economic Zones in the country.

The State has been consistently attracting new investments across sectors. The recent investments by TCS and Infosys alone are expected to create 31,000 direct IT sector jobs in the State.

Many new information technology companies are coming forward to start their units in Tamil Nadu. Big IT units have opened their branches in Chennai. Other units have also set up their branches in Chennai. No doubt it has been rightly said that Chennai is India's capital in Information Technology.

To accommodate all these new IT units in Chennai, another big IT complex is necessary. To give shape to this demand, TIDCO and DLF have joined together to set up a big IT complex to house all IT-related units in Taramani in Chennai on a 27.04 acre area at a cost of Rs.5,000 crore. This may create 70,000 direct employment opportunities.

Constant efforts are taken to improve the infrastructure in the IT corridor, in line with growing needs. Many new projects like Phase II of Chennai Metro, widening of OMR with by-passes at Kelambakkam and Thiruporur and fly-overs at various key junctions at a total cost of Rs. 1,150 crore are being taken up.

I am very sure that, this project by TIDCO and DLF will go a long way in further strengthening Tamil Nadu's position as the most favoured investment destination in South India.

I wish TIDCO and DLF all the very best for the timely and successful completion of this project.

Hon'ble Amma's Government welcomes industrial investors with open arms. This Government gives them permission to start their units and provides other infrastructure facilities to them at the shortest possible time. I am confident that all these measures will make Tamil Nadu the foremost State in industrial growth.

I assure the captains of industry present here that we will continue to fully support all your investments in Tamil Nadu.

I appreciate and thank all the good hearts who have made arrangements for this event in an excellent manner.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon’ble Chief Minister hands over keys for deep sea fishing boats

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 19.02.2020, declared open buildings, constructed at a cost of Rs.27.65 crore, for the Tamil Nadu Dr.J Jayalalithaa Fisheries University, on behalf of the Fisheries Department.

On the occasion, on behalf of the Fisheries Department, the Hon’ble Chief Minister handed over keys and registration certificates for 8 deep sea fishing boats, worth Rs.6.40 crore, to 7 of Palk Bay fishermen of Ramanathapuram District under the Diversification of Trawl Fishing Boats to Deep Sea Fishing Boats Scheme.

Fish production and its utilization have been improved through the Tamil Nadu Fisheries University’s Fisheries Education, Research and Extension Education. This University was renamed ‘Dr.J Jayalalithaa Fisheries University’ on 16.02.2018 and has been imparting professional fisheries education and training for enhancing fish productivity and utilization in the State. It has been conducting research to find new techniques in various branches of fisheries science and is also imparting fisheries’ allied technical education to fish rearers, fishermen, unemployed graduates and entrepreneurs.

In this connection, the Hon’ble Chief Minister inaugurated reception room, classrooms, laboratories, library, computer centre, seminar hall and other facilities, built over an area of 4.78 acres with a built in area of 44,800 sq.metres with ground plus first floor for the Dr.M.G.R.Fisheries College and Research Centre at Oradiyampulam In Thalaignayiru in Nagapattinam District, constructed at a cost of Rs.12.25 crore on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Dr.J Jayalalithaa Fisheries University; A seminar hall with a seating capacity of 400 for the Tamil Nadu Dr. J Jayalalithaa Fisheries University, constructed at a cost of Rs.7.70 crore; Fisheries Technical Training Centre on a 3.46 hectare ground with a built in area of 12,000 sq.ft, built at a cost of Rs.4.50 crore under the National Agricultural Development Programme; a hostel building with 100 inmates capacity for the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Post Graduate Centre at Vaniyanchavadi in Chengalpattu District, costing Rs.3.20 crore.

Totally, buildings worth Rs.27.65 crore were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami on 19.02.2020.

To ensure the livelihood of Palk Bay fishermen, with the participation of the Central and the State Governments, 2,000 trawl boats are being replaced with deep sea fishing boats under the Diversification of Trawl Boats from Palk Bay into Deep Sea Fishing Boats. In the first phase, during the year 2017-2018, the Tamil Nadu Government gave administrative sanction for replacing 500 trawl boats into deep sea fishing boats and allotted Rs.286 crore with the participation of the Central Government. The unit cost of a deep sea boat is Rs.80 lakh. With a subsidy assistance of 50 per cent from the Government of India, 20 per cent assistance from the State Government, 10 per cent beneficiary contribution, the remaining 20 per cent is met from institutional finance. For this scheme, a tripartite agreement has been signed with the boat constructing unit, Fisheries Department and beneficiaries.

Under the scheme, 8 deep sea boats, were built at a cost of Rs.6.40 crore by the Cochin Shipping Construction and other units, for the use of fishermen of Ramanathapuram District. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami handed over the registration certificates and keys for the boats to 7 fishermen.

Though the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act is in force, due to lack of adequate infrastructure, patrol vehicles, human resources, there have been many hurdles to maintaining law and order in the sea, preventing illegal fishing, protecting fisheries resources and regulating fishing practices. To overcome these hurdles, the Tamil Nadu Government has formed the Marine Enforcement Wing with the creation of 112 new posts including one Police Superintendent, one Deputy Superintendent, 10 Inspectors, 8 sub-inspectors, 53 constables and 17 drivers. Uniforms for the personnel of this wing and badges have been designed.

As a mark of the implementation of the Tamil Nadu Fishing Regulation Act in a better manner and to inaugurate the new Marine Enforcement Wing, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami handed over the flag of the Marine Enforcement Wing to the Deputy Superintendent of Police Thiru. P. Radhakrishnan and fixed the badges on 6 Policemen.

Hon’ble Chief Minister excels in diplomatic outreach for overseas investment, gives the assurance, ‘I am here to take care of you’

Speech of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the ‘Diplomatic Outreach’ event aimed at exploring economic and investment opportunities in Tamil Nadu for overseas investors in Chennai on 21.02.2020 *(English Translation)*

My obeisance to Goddess Hon’ble Amma.

I am extremely happy to invite you all to Tamil Nadu which is the cradle of ancient civilizations and whose language –Tamil – with its literary treasures, is the oldest among world languages.

Hon’ble Minister for Industries Thiru.M.C.Sampath, Chief Secretary to Tamil Nadu Government Thiru. K.Shanmugam, I.A.S., Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs (India) Thiru.Tirumurti, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Thiru. Harish, Managing Director, Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation, Thiru. Sanjay Murthy, Principal Secretary, Industries Department Thiru. N.Muruganandam, Executive Vice Chairperson, Industrial Guidence and Export Promotion Bureau (GUIDANCE)Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Chairperson and Managing Director, TIDCO, Tmt. Kakarla Usha, officials of the Ministry of External Affairs (India) and Tamil Nadu Government, captains of Industries, Newspaper and Media personnel –at the outset, I offer my respects to all of you.

Even today the life of the people of Tamil Nadu reflects the assertion of poet *Kaniyan Poongundranar* two thousand years ago that the people of the entire world are kindred folk (*Yaadhum oore, yaavarum kelir*). I am extremely happy to interact with you who have come from different parts of the world to understand the industrial environment and socio-cultural characteristics of Tamil Nadu that is rich in traditions.

In the past, Tamils excelled in marine trade. I am proud to state that they traded with people

in foreign countries including Greece, China and Rome through ports like *Kayal, Korkai, Poompuhar* and *Vanji* in Tamil Nadu.

Today, Tamil Nadu has been honoured as the best State in good governance for its excellent performance in all sectors like agriculture, industries, education, culture and commerce. I wish to elaborate on the industrial development of Tamil Nadu which is in the first place in having the largest number of industrial units in the whole of India.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is a repository of skilled human resources.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is in the premier place in all sectors like production of vehicles and their spare parts, production of yarn, wind power generation and information technology services.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu which is the second biggest economy State in India, has 62 establishments of "Fortune 500".
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is the only Indian State that has ensured all-round growth including socio-economic development, through excellent maintenance of law and order and its journey on the path of 'Peace, Prosperity and Progress' laid down by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has been named for the second time as the best State in overall development by 'India Today' magazine, based on its investigation.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has been ranked second in the economic development index released by Frost and Sullivan organization, by Startup index released by NITI Aayog and by the Grade List for investment opportunities released by NCEAR.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, India's third big exporting State, is exporting its products all over the world through its four big marine ports and four international airports.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is also the most favoured place for inland and foreign tourists. Tamil Nadu has a host of enchanting destinations like Mamallapuram, the epitome of stone sculpture, the Big Temple of Thanjai, applauded by the entire world, Gangaikonda Cholapuram, Darasuram, Chittannavasal, Madurai and Keezhadi

and Adhichanallur that have made many scholars see a connection between the decline of the Indus Valley civilization and the rise of *Sangam* Tamil and the Western Ghat areas abounding in Nature's beauty. I heartily invite you all to come and enjoy these places.

❖ The Tamil Nadu Government under my leadership continues to take steps to attract industrial entrepreneurs from all over the world to start industries in Tamil Nadu. At last year's Global Investors Meet, industrial establishments in many countries inclusive of Japan, Korea, France, Germany, US and Finland gave an undertaking through 304 Memoranda of Understanding to invest more than three lakh crore rupees in Tamil Nadu. Of these, 59 companies have already started commercial production. Two hundred and nineteen more industries are under various stages of operation.

❖ The Tamil Nadu Government under my leadership is implementing many schemes to attain self sufficiency in water management through the biggest sewage treatment plants ever in the country, desalination plants, rain-water harvesting, 'kudimaramathu' scheme and water resources conservation and water augmentation mission.

❖ The Tamil Nadu Government is taking up many steps to encourage industrial investments. These include manifold reforms towards ease of doing business, single window mode through internet, simplifying the means for getting approval from the Pollution Control Board for Green Industries and constituting a high-level committee headed by me to monitor and expedite investments.

❖ As a result of the official tour of the high-level committee headed by me, of England, the US and UAE, investments to the tune of Rs.8,835 crore have been attracted to Tamil Nadu. Many of these schemes have come into operation now.

- Particularly, the Jogo Health Enterprise which I inaugurated today has increased its committed investment by 16 times.
- Korea's Hanon and Japan's Mitsuba Sical, setting up their industries here (inaugurated today) is a proof of the excellent industrial environment prevailing in Tamil Nadu.
- The Tamil Nadu Polymer Industries Park, for which foundation is laid today, is a joint venture of TIDCO and SIPCOT and comes up on 250 acres in Ponneri taluk, Thiruvallur District at an estimate of Rs.217 crore. This Park with modern facilities has attracted investments to the extent of Rs.3,000 crore and will create jobs for 7,000 persons.
- The excellent contribution being made by many foreign diplomats like you to efforts like these put in by my Government cannot be forgotten. During my official tour, the Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and different Departments of the countries concerned gave excellent co-operation.
- For the successful functioning of companies like Ford, Hyundai and Yamaha in Tamil Nadu and for many new investments in the state, the foreign embassies here play a big role and provide excellent guidance.
- The Tamil Nadu Government has set up a joint work force with Japan and Germany. This work force meets periodically and clears the hurdles faced by industries of their respective countries. The embassies of France, US and Korea are also functioning in co-ordination with the industries Department.
- You have come here from different countries and you should function as a bridge between Tamil Nadu and your country. I earnestly request you to be helpful in getting investments to Tamil Nadu, not only in the industrial sector but also from your Government institutions in many other sectors including infrastructure.

- The co-operation among our countries in eco tourism and medical tourism should be enhanced.
- I launched the 'Yadhum Oore' scheme in New York city to welcome investment in Tamil Nadu from the Tamil diaspora in the world. For the effective implementation of this scheme, I seek co-operation from all of you.
- Opportunities are aplenty here for investments like electric vehicle park, aero space park, financial services city, polymer park and food park. Deep Sea fishing schemes have created new export opportunities. The world class livestock park to be set up at Thalaivasal near Salem will offer export opportunities for milk and milk products.
- I warmly invite you to participate in the Mega Textile Park to be set up shortly with Central Government assistance at Salem and Thoothukudi District, and benefit from it.
- Hon'ble Amma's Government has set its footprints in Information and Information Technology fields. Particularly, many new technological enterprises have been set up to such an extent in Chennai, that it has come to be called 'SAAS Capital of India'. Many big companies have also set up their branch offices in Chennai. This is all due to the peace prevailing in the State and the availability of human resources capable of meeting modern technological needs. Every year, lakhs of students complete their higher education and step out as skilled engineers.
- Schemes for industrial corridors will be the next stage in Tamil Nadu's growth journey. These schemes will aim at taking all Districts in the State to the next stage in infrastructure and industrial development in tune with the modern world environment. Today, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between TIDCO and the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT), an important milestone in the implementation of the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor.
- Growth of India that has a sixth of world's population is capable of taking the world into a new era. Tamil Nadu plays a big role in India's growth. Hence, my Government is moving towards the target fixed by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalavi Amma so that Tamil Nadu will rise up as the best place in Asia for investment.
- In this journey of ours, I solicit your love and co-operation. I look forward to this journey being a beginning for tomorrow's victory and extend my hearty thanks to all of you, my beloved guests.

Dear Investors, be assured, I am here to take care of you. Most welcome.

My congratulations to the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India and other officials for arranging this good event. I take leave of you.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon'ble Chief Minister commends medal winners of National Fire Service Games held at Lucknow

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat in Chennai on 13.01.2020, congratulated the winners of the Indian Fire Service Games held at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh from 20.12.2019 to 22.12.2019.

At the National Games, Fire and Rescue Service Personnel belonging to Tamil Nadu, won 15 gold Medals, 18 Silver Medals and 13 Bronze Medals. Thirty-three Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Service personnel who participated in the games, showed the medals to Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami.

The Second National Fire Service Games was held at Lucknow from 20.12.2019 to 22.12.2019. In the Sports meet, 700 Fire and Rescue Service personnel belonging to 16 States participated.

In the Ultimate Fire Fighting Drill, considered to be a professionally important event, Thiru. C. Govindasami of Tamil Nadu won the Gold Medal and Thiru. M.Sasikumar the Bronze.

In the racing event, Tamil Nadu Fire Service officers and Fire Rescue personnel won 3 Gold, 4 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals. The remaining tally is as follows: in the relay race, Tamil Nadu won 3 Gold and 2 Silver medals, in the Shotput event 1 Gold and 2 Silver Medals, in the Long and High Jump event, 2 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze Medals, in Badminton 1 Gold and 3 Bronze Medals, in Swimming 1 Gold, 3 Silver and 3 Bronze Medals, in Basketball 1 Gold Medal, in Volleyball 1 Bronze Medal, in Wrestling 1 Silver Medal, in Weightlifting 2 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals, in Body Building 1 Gold and 1 Silver Medals, and in Karate 1 Gold and 1 Silver Medals, totally 15 Gold, 18 Silver and 13 Bronze Medals.

The medal winners showed their medals to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, who congratulated them.

The Tamil Nadu Coastal Security Group won the Skoch Award for the year 2019 for its best performance in the service of the public and for functioning as the role model in the country, and the National Maritime Search and Rescue Award. The Awards were shown to the Hon'ble Chief Minister by the Additional Director of Coastal Security Group, Thiru. K. Vanniya Perumal I.P.S.

Hon'ble Chief Minister lays stone for medical college at Ramanathapuram

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** laid the foundation stone for a new Government Medical College at a function held at Ramanathapuram on 01.03.2020 *(English Translation)*.

I bow before Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Hon'ble Union Minister for Health, Family Welfare, Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan who participated in the foundation stone laying function for a new medical college;

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, brother Thiru. O.Panneerselvam; Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr.C.Vijayabaskar, who was responsible for bringing this medical college; Respected Chief Secretary Thiru. K.Shanmugam, who welcomed the gathering;

Respected Thiru. K.Navaskani, MP; Former Minister beloved brother Dr.M.Manikandan; Local MLA, Actor and Respected brother Thiru. S.Karunas; Respected MLAs Thiru.N.Sathan Prabhakar and Thiru. S.Pandi, District Panchayat President, Thiru. Thisaiveeran, President of the District Central Cooperative Bank Thiru. M.A.Muniyaswami, District Cooperative store president, Thiru. S.Murugesan, District Cooperative Union president, Thiru. S.Rajendran, president of the Tamil Nadu Palmgur and Fibre Marketing Co-operative Federation, S. Balasingam, District President of the Ramanathapuram and Sivagangai Co-operative Milk Producers Co-operative Society, Thiru. K.R.Asokan, Respected president of Panchayat Union Tmt. Subbulakshmi Jeevanandam, District Panchayat Member Tmt. K.Kavitha Kathiresan, Panchayat Union President Tmt.Chitra Marudhu, Panchayat Union Council Member Thiru. S.Murugan, Secretary of the Health and Family Welfare Department,Dr.Beela Rajesh, Hon'ble Ministers, who are participating in the function, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Housing

Board, Thiru P.K.Vairamuthu, former Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha and former Union Minister, brother Thiru. Thambidurai, former Minister and former MP, brother Thiru. Anwar Raja, Respected MP Tmt. Vijila Sathyananth, Thiru. Raveendranath MP, former Ministers, MPs and MLAs, at the outset I extend my warm welcome to you all. I also extend my welcome to my party cadres, representatives of Local Bodies, and Cooperative Societies, elders, ladies and party men, friends from the print and visual media.

Ramanathapuram District is a District with beautiful seashores. Rameswaram, situated in the District is a world renowned pilgrim and tourist centre. It is well known not only in Tamil Nadu but also throughout the world.

Rameswaram has the Ramanathaswami Temple, worshipped by Sri Rama and the Sethu Bridge established by Lord Rama to retrieve Sita Devi, during the Ramayana epic period. The Missile Hero and former President of the country, Hon'ble Abdul Kalam lived in Rameswaram.

Kings in charge of the coastal areas in and around the Sethu Bridge, were called Sethu kings. The place ruled by Sethu kings was known as Sethu Naadu as well as Rama Naadu, which in later stage came to know as Ramanathapuram Seemai and then as Ramanathapuram. Even 1100 years ago, the Pandyan Kings and Sethu Kings were well versed in water management.

There were hundreds of tanks, ponds, eris, water bodies and pools in the District, which were formed to store Vaigai river water and rain water for irrigation and drinking water purposes.

This District is a standing example for communal amity as Muslims, Christians and Hindus live here peacefully.

Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar was born here. It was here that Immanuel Sekaran was born. On this wonderful soil, the foundation stone for a new medical college is to be laid. Tamil Nadu is the only State which got permission for starting 11 medical colleges in a single year. Among the 11 new medical colleges in the District, Ramanathapuram District is the first District where the foundation stone is to be laid. This is a lucky place as well as a sacred place. We feel that it is a divine gift to lay the foundation stone on this sacred soil.

It was Bhaskara Sethupathi of Ramanathapuram, who financed Swami Vivekananda for his trip to Chicago in the United States of America.

After making his historic speech at the Chicago 'Parliament of Religions', when

Swami Vivekananda returned to India via sea through Sri Lanka, it was the Sethupathi King who requested Swami Vivekananda with great veneration to set his feet on this soil. The place where Swami Vivekananda was received is known as Kundukal and is near Pamban.

Hon'ble Amma set up a full size statue of Swami Vivekananda, a meditation hall and a library at that place and it is now a tourist spot.

This District has a preponderance of fishermen and workers involved in fishing and allied activities. Hon'ble Amma had waged a legal battle to retrieve Katchatheevu, which is the lifeline for the fishermen here.

The Tamil Nadu Government, which is following the path of Hon'ble Amma, after the demise of Hon'ble Amma is continuing the legal battle to get back Katchatheevu.

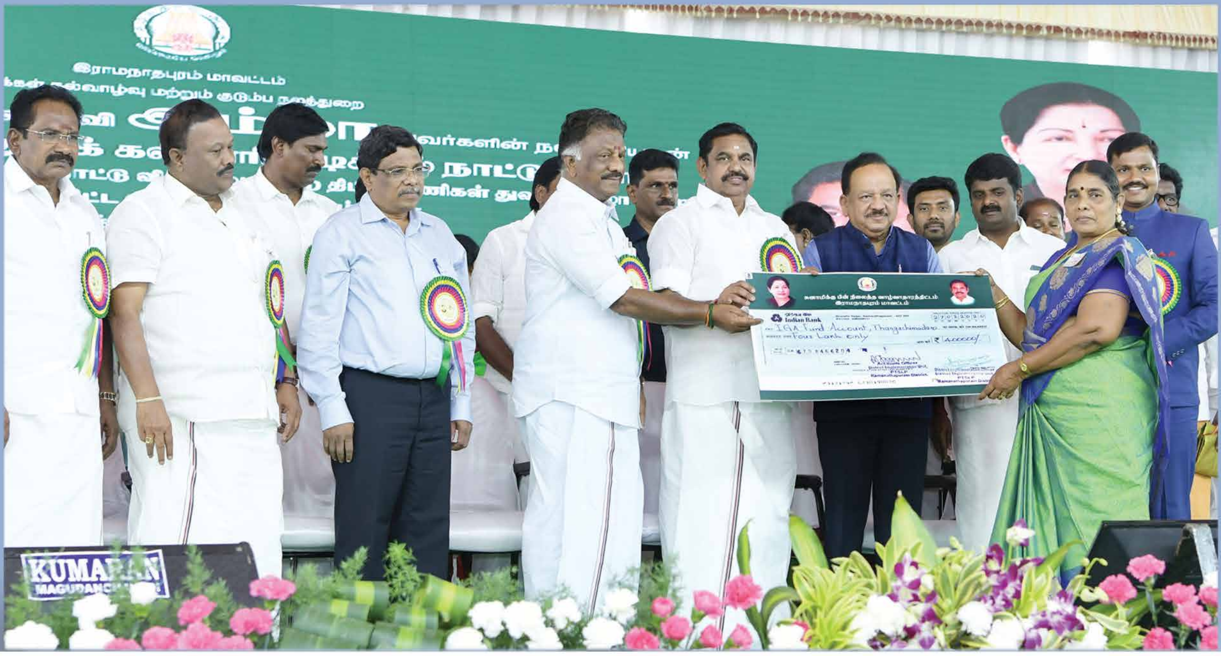
For a long time, since British rule, Madurai was also the District headquarters of Ramanathapuram District. I am happy to inform that it was Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar, who trifurcated Ramanathapuram District for administrative purposes and issued orders for making Ramanathapuram the District headquarters. So Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar had the credit of creating this District.

When the Noon Meal Programme was started, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma constructed a Noon Meal Centre at Devipattinam in the District in the name of Hon'ble Amma's mother Tmt. Sandhya. These actions show how far these two great leaders loved this District. At present, Hon'ble Amma's Government, treading the path of these two great leaders, in order to fulfill the long-pending demand for a medical college in the District is laying the foundation stone for it.

Hon'ble Amma's policy was to start Government Medical Colleges in all the Districts where there were no medical colleges.

As per the policy, 6 Government Medical Colleges with an intake of 700 students were started one each in Sivagangai, Tiruvannamalai, Chennai Omandurar Government Estate, Coimbatore ESI Hospital, Pudukkottai and Karur.

The total intake increased by an additional 650 seats in the existing 10 Government Medical Colleges.



I am happy to inform that in the last 8 years, 1,350 additional seats have been created. Hon'ble Amma's Government has thus made the dream of medical education a reality for our students.

Hon'ble Amma's Government decided to start more medical colleges in the interest of students of economically weaker sections in rural areas.

People in Ramanathapuram District now have to go to Madurai, which is 100 km away, for emergency treatment and high tech medical assistance. So there is every need for a Government Medical College here. I brought this to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister through memorandums, letters and during my meetings with the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Due to my efforts, I have come here to lay the foundation stone for a new Government Medical College. I personally feel happy that my efforts have borne fruit in this manner.

On this occasion I am duty-bound to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare for sanctioning 11 medical colleges for the State.

I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Union Minister for Health for sanctioning 11 Medical Colleges to my State. I also thank the Union Health Minister for presiding over this function.

I am happy to inform you through this function that only due to continued pressure given by my Government to the Central Government, we were able to get permission to start 11 new Medical Colleges for Tamil Nadu.

The Central Government announced the scheme for starting the new medical colleges by integrating all hospitals in the District having 300 beds and other medical facilities. For this, the expenditure for medical education seats for each medical college will be Rs.325 crore. We have brought the scheme with the financial assistance of both the Central and State Governments. I am proud to announce that taking into consideration the desire of students in Tamil Nadu for medical education and the requirement of doctors in the State,

Hon'ble Amma's Government issued orders sanctioning additional funds and increased the intake of students by 150 in each of the medical colleges in the State.

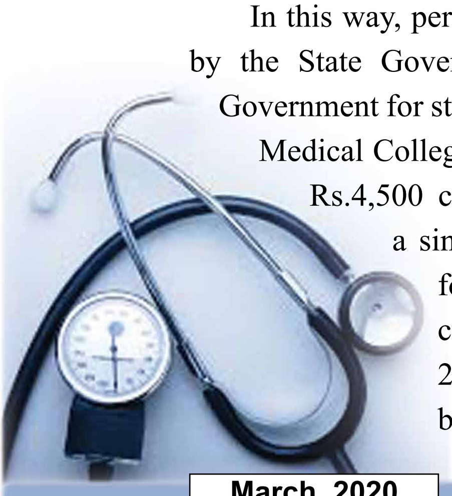
As part of the scheme, in the first phase, to start new Government Colleges in the 6 Districts of Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Namakkal, The Nilgiris and Tiruppur, 20 acres of land in each of the Districts were identified by Hon'ble Amma's Government and sent for the opinion of the Central Government and its sanction.

In these 6 Districts, new Government Medical Colleges will start functioning from the academic year 2021-2022 with an intake of 150 students each. To start the preliminary works, Dean and Special Officer have been appointed and Government orders have been issued allotting Rs.100 crore for each college for undertaking building works.

In the second phase, permission was received for starting new Government Medical Colleges in the 3 Districts of Krishnagiri, Thiruvallur and Nagapattinam.

Recently, permission was received from the Central Government for starting two more Government Medical Colleges, one each in Ariyalur District and Kallakurichi District.

In this way, permission has been received by the State Government from the Central Government for starting 11 new Government Medical Colleges with a total estimate of Rs.4,500 crore to Rs.5,000 crore in a single year. This is a record for the State. For this, in the current year's budget 2020-2021, Rs.1,200 crore has been allotted.



Due to this, students will be admitted for an additional 1,650 medical seats from the academic year 2021-2022 along with the existing 3,250 seats in the existing colleges.

'Piniyenmai, selvam, vilaivinbam, yemam,

Anienba nattirkku ivvaindhu'.

According to Saint Tiruvalluvar, disease-free life, wealth, good crop production, happiness and security are the attributes of a good nation.

I am happy to inform that Tamil Nadu has all these 5 aspects and shines as the premier state in the country.

"My aim is to provide quality medical treatment in a healthy environment with qualified doctors, nurses, technicians and the latest equipment," said Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

I would like to remind you at this juncture, that to meet the aspirations of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and for the people of Tamil Nadu to live a disease-free life, the present Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government continues to implement all the welfare schemes brought out by Hon'ble Amma in a successful manner.

Dr.Muthulakshmi Maternity Benefit Scheme, Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, Amma Baby care Kit for new born babies; Amma Arogya Scheme, Amma Maternity Sanjeevi Thittam, Amma Whole Body Health Check-up and AmmaWomen Special Master Health Checkup Scheme, Sanitary Napkin at no cost Scheme, Hospital on Wheels Programme, Non-communicable Disease Prevention Control and Treatment Scheme, Breast Milk Bank, Expansion of infrastructure in High tech

hospitals, Tamil Nadu Government's Multi-Super Speciality Hospital, Setting up high tech hospitals with accident service centres, 108 Ambulance Service; 104 Information, advice and complaints centre and 102 antenatal care ambulance service.

The Tamil Nadu Government is proud that it has been implementing many welfare schemes in a successful manner.

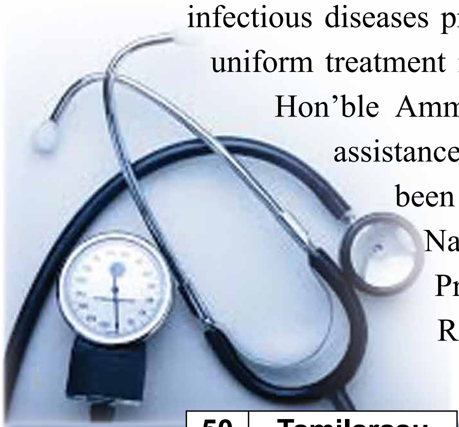
I would like to inform through this function, that the Tamil Nadu Government has allotted Rs.15,863.37 crore for the Health and Family Welfare Department in the 2020-2021 budget.

Hon'ble Amma's Government has allotted so much funds to provide proper treatment to the poor and the downtrodden in Tamil Nadu.

In addition, with the assistance of the Japanese International Co-operative Agency, Hon'ble Amma's Government has been implementing the Tamil Nadu Urban Health Scheme at a cost of Rs.1,634 crore.

Through the scheme, new buildings and the latest medical equipment will be provided for the 11 Medical College Hospitals already set up in urban areas, and 10 District and District sub-health centres.

I am proud to say that to improve the quality of medical treatment, especially infectious diseases prevention, and to provide uniform treatment in maternity services, the Hon'ble Amma Government with the assistance of the World Bank has been implementing Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Programme at a cost of Rs.2,857 crore.



I would like to inform through this function that like these, the Tamil Nadu Government have been creating many records in the Health sector.

When I participated in the Centenary celebrations of Puratchi Thalaivar MGR in Ramanathapuram, I announced 24 new schemes for the District. Of those, 10 have already been implemented, 14 are in various stages of implementation.

Orders have been issued upgrading the Ramanathapuram Municipality into Special Grade Municipality; MRI, CT Scans, Eco Cardiograph and Dialysis units have been installed in Ramanathapuram Government Hospitals;

Equipment has been supplied to set up geriatric ward and accident treatment Wards and Operation theatre has been set up in Paramakudi Government Hospital with C.T.Scan and Dialysis Units.

Apart from these, I would like to mention some of the successful programmes implemented in Ramanathapuram District by Hon'ble Amma's Government.

To improve the storage of rain water in water bodies, Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government has dedicated the Kudimaramathu Scheme to the people. This scheme was a boon for Ramanathapuram District, which is a drought-prone District. The scheme was introduced when the District was reeling under severe drought. Under the scheme, 68 water body works have been carried out at a cost of Rs.29.54 crore and works in 69 water bodies, at a cost of Rs.37.59 crore, are in progress. The Kudimaramathu Scheme has been brought to save every drop of rain water.

Due to the scheme, most of the water bodies in the State have been de-silted. Similarly, for improving the rural economy, cows and goats are distributed at no cost.

To enable students to get the best education, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma introduced distribution of laptop computers at no cost with a long-term vision. Through the laptop computer, students can access world news from their homes. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was instrumental in providing scientific education to the students. Tamil Nadu is the only State in the country where laptop computers are distributed to students at no cost. It is only in Tamil Nadu that education is given without any discrimination between poor and rich, and students in the lower strata of society are given the same type of education that those coming from the higher strata are getting. I am happy to inform that this year alone, 29,897 laptops worth Rs.36.79 crore, have been given to students in this District.

I am happy to inform that under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, the treatment limit at the private hospitals in the State has been increased from Rs.2 lakh to Rs.5 lakh by the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government. At this juncture, I would like to point out that Green House Scheme is yet another among many schemes being implemented by Amma's Government.

I announced the Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal Scheme recently. Under the scheme, 9,302 petitions were received from this District. Earlier, to solve your grievances, you submitted petitions to officials at their offices. But now the officials are receiving the petitions from the people at their doorsteps itself and redressing the grievances. Under the scheme, 9,302 petitions were received from the District of which 2,101 persons were given old-age pension within 3 months. Similarly, many petitions were received, including transfer of patta. These petitions will be looked into by the District Collector and suitable action will be taken.

Chilli is grown in a big way in the District. In Paramakudi and Mudukulathur, Chilli processing centres are functioning with facilities for auction.

At Mookaiyur a fishing harbor has been set up at a cost of Rs.128.70 crore.

At T.Mariyur, Pamban, Vedhalai, Mukundaraya Chatram, Dhanushkodi and Thangachimadam fish landing centres have been set up at a cost of Rs.44.7 crore and are in use for the benefit of fishermen.

A power Sub-Station has been installed at Kamuthi at a cost of Rs.518 crore.

Disaster retrieving centres have been set up in many places, including Rameswaram, Mandapam and Thangachimadam.

A new Government Arts and Science College at a cost of Rs.7.25 crore in Mudukulathur;

Last year, I announced in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly that an Arts and Science College in the name of the late Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam would be started here. I would like to inform that the college is now functioning.

Three road over-bridges were constructed on the Srivilliputhur-Parthibanur Road-Pidaraicheri route.

A Rs.10.crore special package programme was prepared to enhance the tourist facilities at Rameswaram and funds were allotted in the current year's budget. I would like to inform that the programme would be implemented in the current year.

Through this function, I have opened the Tahsildar's office and quarters in Keezhakarai, at a cost of Rs.2.72 crore and 5 other buildings, all totally costing Rs.5.87 crore.

Apart from laying the foundation for the new Government Medical College here, foundation stones were also laid for 9 new works, including for new Veterinary Hospital buildings, to be constructed at a cost of Rs.18.34 crore at Tiruvadanai and Rajasingamangalam.

Similarly various welfare measures, worth Rs.105 crore would be distributed to 21,105 beneficiaries in the current function.

Tamil Nadu is a land of peace in India. There is communal amity in the State. People belonging to all religions live like brothers. Following the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar MGR and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the present Government is functioning as a Government of communal amity and like a fortress to protect the interest of minorities. I would like to vow on this occasion that the Government would continue to protect the interests of Minorities in the State. I gave the same assurance in the Legislative Assembly also. But in recent times, people who could not tolerate the communal peace in the State are spreading false rumours with political motives. I appeal to people not to believe those rumours. Through this function, I would like to assure the Minorities that they need not have any suspicion or fear.

'Ondru Pattaal Undu Vaazhvu

Nammil Ottrumai Neengidil Anaivarkkum Thaazhvu',

-said Mahakavi Bharathiyar.

I appeal to people not to give credence to such false propaganda but to live amicably. While saying this, I am reminded of a story.

In a village near a forest, two goats were living with friendship and amity. A wolf, which wanted to taste the blood of these goats, was monitoring the movement of the goats. It was waiting for an opportunity to see the goats graze separately. On one such occasion, the wolf went to one of the goats and said that you alone are working to gather food for both of you. Your friend (goat) was simply watching. "Is this not difficult for you," the wolf asked, trying to poison the mind of the goat. The wolf spoke to the other goat also in a similar manner. The goats started thinking that each of them was being made to exert more for the other, and began to quarrel. After the fight, they became tired and rested in a corner. The wolf which arrived at that time thought that the goats had left the place and licked the blood of the goats which was spilled there. This act of the wolf was noticed by the goats. Only then did the goats understand the evil plan of the wolf. They pretended to attack each other and at that time the wolf also arrived as if to bring peace between them. But the goats got together to drive the wolf away and taught it a lesson.

I would like to inform at this function, in a similar manner, whoever tries to drive a wedge

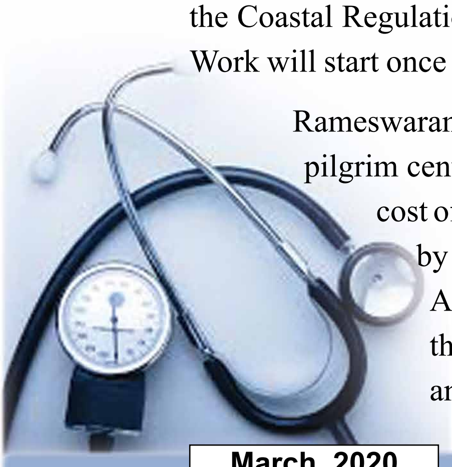
among the people, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government will negate any such move with your co-operation .

I assure you on this occasion, that by following the guiding principle, 'Peace, Prosperity and Progress' of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, Tamil Nadu will continue to remain a garden of peace.

I am happy to inform the happy news that it has been planned to divert the surplus water of Cauvery at Mayanur barrage to Karur, Tiruchi, Sivagangai, Virudhunagar through a new canal and then link it to Vaigai River and Gundaru to provide water to Ramanathapuram District. When the scheme is implemented, it will provide assured irrigation to about 75,000 acres of land.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi announced in the Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 that a sea water desalination plant with a capacity of 60 million litres would be set up at Kuthiraimozhi, at a cost of Rs.675 crore.

Through this scheme, 543 colonies in Ramanathapuram, Tiruvadanai and Mudukulathur Assembly constituencies will be benefited. About 3.14 lakh people of Ramanathapuram District will be benefited. The scheme received administrative sanction on 28.07.2015. Steps are being taken to get the Coastal Regulation Authority's permission. Work will start once the permission is received.



Rameswaram is a world renowned pilgrim centre. Here a Yatri Nivas at a cost of Rs.27 crore is being set up by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's government for the convenience of pilgrims and tourists. It will have 250 beds. Ninety per cent of the construction work has been completed. The balance will be completed soon and the Yatri Nivas will be ready for use.

On an average, over one crore people not only from India but also from the entire world are visiting and having darshan at Ramanathapuram temple every year. When the devotees take holy bath in the 22 sacred tanks, they get immense happiness. They believe that their sorrows, miseries and misfortunes will come to an end and they will be blessed if they bathe in the water of the tanks. Rameswaram is such a holy place and Ramanathapuram District has the distinction of having such a holy place. It is in Ramanathapuram District which has the hallowed pilgrim centre Rameswaram that we are laying the first foundation stone for a Government medical college. Amma's Government has laid a road from Rameswaram to Arichal Munai in Dhanushkodi with financial assistance from the Central Government.

The MLAs , party cadres and members of the general public have submitted various demands to me on this occasion. After considering their demands, I am making the following announcements.

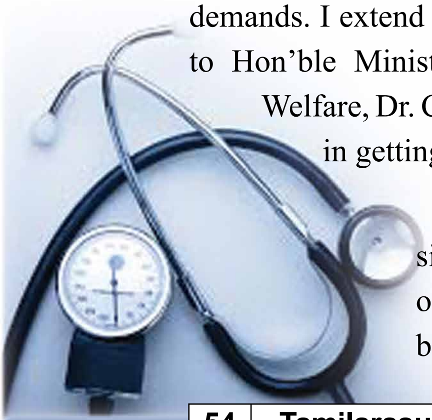
New Announcements:

1. Two Refrigerated godowns of 100 Metric tonne capacity at 2 Panchayats in Mudukulathur Division will be set up at a cost of Rs.1.5 crore.
2. A mobile soil testing laboratory will be set up at a cost of Rs.70 lakh at Paramakudi.

❖ Drying fields in all divisions at a cost of Rs.9 lakh each will be set up by the Rural Development Department.

- The weekly shandies in Kamuthi and Sayalkudi will be improved at a cost of Rs.2 crore each and the Abiramam Town panchayat weekly shandy at a cost of Rs.1 crore. A panchayat union Primary school will be started at Sengal Neerodai in Thirupullani Union as there is a demand for a primary school.
- Infrastructure facilities at the Government Higher Secondary Schools in Pandikudi in Tiruvadanai Union, Thangachimadam and Irumeni in Mandapam Union, Kamankottai in Bogalur Union, Peraiyur in Kamuthi Union and in Government Girls Higher Secondary school in Pudumadam in Mandapam Union would be improved.
- Funds will be allotted for constructing new buildings for the Adi Dravidar Welfare Government Boys Hostels at Chatrakudi and Manjur in Paramakudi Division,for the Adi Dravidar Welfare College Hostel for women at Paramakudi and to repair the damaged Adi Dravida Welfare Women's hostels at Parthibanur and Paramakudi in the Parmakudi division.

In a single year, our Government has notched a major achievement. Within a short time, sanction has been received for 11 Government medical colleges from the Central Government after our repeated demands. I extend my warm and hearty thanks to Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. C.Vijayabaskar for his efforts in getting the permission.



Similarly I extend my sincere thanks to the Secretary of the Department, officials belonging to Revenue, Urban Development, Public Works Departments and officials of Departments concerned and District officials.

I extend my congratulations and greetings to all who made excellent arrangements for conducting this function in an excellent manner.

The new Government Medical College that is to come up here will provide high tech medical facilities to the poor and the downtrodden. Since the Medical College is to be set up here, a major hospital will come up here. The Government Hospital will be on par with the private hospitals in providing treatment. In olden days, people used to say that they were going to 'Dharma' Hospital (charity hospital) while undergoing treatment at Government hospitals. That concept will be changed and we are going to give a major Government hospital with best infrastructure, additional facilities and treatment better than private hospitals. The medical college will have quality buildings and glitter with a new look. I would like to inform you that the buildings will come up in such a manner that students and patients will have a positive feeling when entering them.

I once again thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Thiru. Narendra Modiji and the Hon'ble Union Minister for Health, Thiru. Harsh Vardhan, who were mainly responsible for making the medical college here a reality.

The Central Government sanctioned 11 medical colleges as soon as we made the demand, for which I thank the Central Government. To the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Union Minister for Health, on your behalf and on my own behalf, I once again extend my sincere thanks.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

News in Pictures

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** presented cheques for Rs.26 lakh to 4 sports personnel as incentives for winning gold and bronze medals at the Secretariat on 04.02.2020. Selvi K. Jennitha Anto was given a cheque for Rs.20 lakh for winning the gold in the 19th IPCA International Individual Chess Championship competition and cheques for Rs.2 lakh each to P. Vikkas, D. Aditya and Selvi A.V. Jayaveena for winning bronze in the 10th Asian Age Group Swimming Championship competition.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** declared open the modernized (Rs.1.50 crore) Coimbatore Loom World sales centre and the renovated and modernized (Rs.80 lakh) Khadi Mart building at West Masi Street, Madurai through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 04.02.2020.

News in Pictures

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** handed over appointment orders to 9 persons in his Camp office on 10.02.2020 as a token of distribution of such orders to 1,503 persons selected by the Teachers Recruitment Board to fill Post-Graduate vacancies in Government and Municipal Higher Secondary Cchools.

In connection with World Women's Day on 08.03.2020, Hon'ble Ministers and other high Government officials paid floral tributes to the portrait of Avvaiyar kept near her statue at Kamarajar Salai, Chennai on 08.03.2018.

Thanking CII for its co-operation with Government....

Hon'ble Chief Minister spells out how Tamil Nadu stands ahead in ease of starting new industries

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the 125th anniversary celebrations of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) held on 30.01.2020. *(English Translation)*

My obeisance to Goddess Hon'ble Amma.

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit who is to deliver a special address at the 125th anniversary celebrations of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Hon'ble Industries Minister Thiru.M.C.Sampath, Principal Secretary to the Department of Industries Thiru.Muruganandam, National President of CII Thiru. Vikram Kirloskar, President, Southern Zone Thiru. Sanjay Jayawardena Velu, CII Tamil Nadu President Thiru.S.Chandramohan, Former Presidents of CII Thiru. Seshasayee, Thiru.Gopalakrishnan, Selvi Shobana Kamineni, Industry barons, Government staff, Newspaper and Media friends- at the outset, I offer my respects to all of you.

I am extremely happy to participate in the 125th anniversary celebrations of CII that continues to remain a trusted friend and consultant in India's journey in the path

of growth. CII continues to encourage the country and its industrial establishments to develop and reach new heights in the ever-changing environment in science, economy and technology. Hon'ble Amma's Government functions according to Hon'ble Amma's policy of making Tamil Nadu, a premier State, not only in industrial sector but in all other sectors.

I wish to particularly point out here that the CII played a great role in the excellent conduct of the Global Investors Meet held to great appreciation in Tamil Nadu in the years 2015 and 2019. Also, its share in spreading throughout Tamil Nadu, the reforms initiated by Hon'ble Amma's Government towards the ease of setting up industries, is great and praiseworthy. The Information Technology related seminar-CONNECT - organized by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in 2001 is being conducted successfully till date, jointly by the Tamil Nadu Government and CII. In the Board of Directors of Tamil Nadu Industrial Guidance Bureau also, CII is playing an effective role.

To encourage the industrial sector, our Government is taking several steps consecutively. The scheme permitting industries to start construction works on a self-attested certificate if approval of applications has not been sanctioned within the stipulated time, is already in vogue.

I am happy to announce a new initiative named 'Direct to CTO Scheme for Green Industries' to relax the process for pre-establishment clearances for Green category industries. Under this scheme, it is enough green category industries, desiring to start industries in Industrial Parks and other permitted places, apply for Consent to Establish by paying the fee. They need not wait for getting the consent. They can start construction works on a self-attested certificate. It is enough to get consent for operating the industry.

Already, consent of the pollution control board has been dispensed with for White category industries. The new initiative will benefit 63 types of Green category industries. This will be a boon to the MSME industries..

I am also happy to announce a new initiative for land use re-classification in non-plan areas. Land use re-classification for non-plan areas will be given deemed approval, if the applications in full shape cross the time line. Online applications will be disposed off within a maximum of 50 days through the single window process. In the event of delay,

the applicant-industry can start its works as if the re-classification of land has been approved. The benefit of the scheme is that the agriculture Department will issue no objection certificate, covering all rules within a maximum of 30 days and the land will be re-classified in 15 to 50 days. The deemed approval for the plan will also be issued in the same period. The plan approval period is now reduced to 50 days from what was 6 months to 2 years previously. This will help establishments start their construction works without any delay.

The efforts put in successively by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government are continuously attracting many new industrial investments to Tamil Nadu, helping it remain in the forefront in the industrial field. Commercial production has been started in 59 enterprises in the same year of the holding of the second global investors meet. Two hundred and thirteen more schemes are in various stages of operation.

After the successful conduct of the Global Investors Meet, 63 MoUs valued at Rs.19,000 crore have been signed. They potentially envisage 83,000 new job opportunities.

To further enhance industrial development in Tamil Nadu, Hon'ble Amma's Government is taking up many new efforts like the '*Yadhum Oore*' scheme to welcome world Tamils to start industries, an internet redressal facility '*Thozhil Nanban*' ("Friend of Industry") to solve the grievances of industrial entrepreneurs, '*Thozhil Valar Tamil Nadu*' scheme to spread the salient features of Tamil Nadu's Industries Department across the world, Chairs for countries in Industries Guidance Bureau, appointment of Industries Guidance Bureau's representatives in Taiwan and USA and the setting up of Electric Vehicle Park, Food Park, Aerospace Park and a high-level committee under my leadership to monitor and expedite single window portal clearances through the Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act. Through this high-level committee, a host of permissions have been granted so far to 36 industrial projects with an investment of Rs.14,728 crore. Through this, job opportunities are to be created for 22,763 persons.

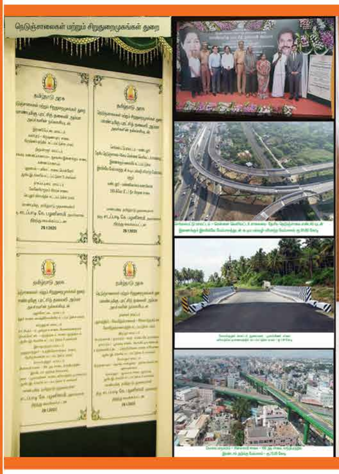
As proof of this Government's good governance, I am happy to point out that Tamil Nadu occupies the first rank in the good governance index report of the Central Government for the year 2019. The State has been adjudged against 50 criteria in 10 Departments inclusive of agriculture, industries, human resources development, public health, infrastructure facilities and social welfare schemes.

Ours is a Government that welcomes industrial investors with open arms. It is our Government that provides sanction and all infrastructure facilities at a short time to investors starting enterprises.

Conveying my good wishes and appreciation to the CII for organizing this function in a good way, I conclude my speech.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates Rs.91.80 crore flyover at Vandalur



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami declared open at the Secretariat on 29.01.2020 through video conferencing, a multi-directional grade separator flyover, constructed at a cost of Rs.91.80 crore at Vandalur, Chengalpattu District and a 2.65 km long main Road between Vandalur and Mannivakkam. Also declared open were 15 river bridges constructed in the Districts of Namakkal, Tiruppur, Perambalur, Pudukkottai, Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore, Ranipet, Tiruvallur and Nagapattinam at a cost of Rs.119.86 crore.

Realizing the importance of Road infrastructure in the social and economic development of the State, the Tamil Nadu Government that is functioning on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is diligently implementing many schemes like constructing new bridges, laying quality Roads in needed areas and maintaining bridges all over the State for increasing the Road capacity to meet the escalating traffic needs and ensuring safe travel.

Towards this objective, the multi-directional grade separator with an ascending and two descending levels, linking the National Highway No.45 with the Chennai outer ring Road and serving as a railway over bridge also, and the Vandalur-Mannivakkam main Road were declared open.

The bridges declared open were: at Govindampalayam on Puduchatram-Govindampalayam - Singalanthapuram Road, Namakkal Taluk, Namakkal District (costing Rs.1.94 crore); at Reddipalayam on Pollachi-Dharapuram-Karur Road (Rs.1.65 crore), at Venkittipalayam on the Dharapuram-Poolavadi Road (Rs.1.65 crore), both at Dharapuram Taluk and at Eripalayam on the Udumalpet-Sencherimalai Road, in Udumalpet Taluk

(Rs.1.65 crore) - all in Tiruppur District; at Annamangalam on Krishnapuram – Thondamanthurai - Annamangalam Road (Rs.2 crore) in Veppanthattai Taluk and at Alambadi on Perambalur - Alambadi Road (Rs.2.43 crore) in Perambalur Taluk, both in Perambalur District; at Vaithikovil, Vaithur Road, Kulathur Taluk, Pudukkottai District (Rs. 2 crore), at Melakallankulam on Meenakshipuram - A.Mukkulam Road (Rs.99 lakh) and at Kurunthamadam on Aruppukottai - Kurunthamadam Road (Rs.1.40 crore), both in Kariapatti Taluk, Virudhunagar District; at Theriruveli on Mudhukalathur - Uthirakosamangai Road (Rs.1.92 crore), Mudukalathur Taluk, Ramanathapuram District; at Kariachettipalayam at the junction of Pollachi-Valparai branch Road with the Anaimalai-Poolankinar Road (Rs.1.10 crore) in Anaimalai Taluk, Coimbatore District and a second tier construction on the 100 ft. Chinnasamy Road flyover (Rs.75 crore) in Gandhipuram area, Kovai city, Coimbatore Taluk (North); at Krishnapuram on Valarpuram-Krishnapuram Road in Arakkonam Taluk, Ranipet District (Rs.5.23 crore), across Cooum river in Kannappalayam on the Melpakkam Kannappalayam Road linking Avadi in Poonamallee Taluk, Tiruvallur District (Rs.6.60 crore); across Arani river in Ponneri on the Puduvayal-Pulicat Road that branches off from Chennai-Pulicat Road, Ponneri Taluk,Tiruvallur District (Rs.12.30 crore) and at S.Puthur village on Konerirajapuram village Road, Kuthalam Taluk, Nagapattinam District (Rs.2 crore) – totally costing Rs.211.66 crore.

Hon'ble Chief Minister also distributed keys of machinery vehicles to 3 officers as a token of distribution of such vehicles to the Department of Highways (Chennai city Road Division) for the use of Road maintenance. They are for garbage removal in Roads (six costing Rs.3.50 crore), repairing pot holes (1) and a small pressing machine (Rs.one crore totally), sediment sucker in storm water drainage and culverts (1) and a small earth remover (together Rs.1.50 crore).

Handicraft awards presented to encourage artisans, raise their standard of living

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 19.02.2020, handed over "*Vaazhum Kaivinai Pokkisham*" (Living Craft Treasure) Awards to 10 handicraft artisans, Poompuhar State Awards to 10 handicraft artisans on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation, and the best sericulture farmers awards to 3 sericulture farmers on behalf of the Sericulture Department and honoured them.

The Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation, popularly known as Poompuhar, has been functioning successfully to encourage the artisans in the State and improve their standard of living.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma on 08.05.2013 in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 announced that the artisans in Tamil Nadu who dedicate their lives for handicrafts would be honoured with Living Craft Treasure Award by the Tamil Nadu Government. As per the announcement, the Living Craft Treasure Award is given every year to artisans who are 65 years and above from 2013. The Award consists of a cash prize of Rs.1 lakh, 8 grams of gold, a *Tamirapathram* and a Certificate.

For the year 2019-2020, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami gave the Living Craft Treasure Award to 10 winners, Thiru. Vidyashankar Stapathi, Thiru. M.Rajamanickam, Thiru. K.Venkatachalam, Thiru. T.Vellaikannu, Thiru. N.Jagadeeswaran, Thiru. R.Ramalingam, Thiru. M.Ponnuswami, Thiru. M.Durairaj, Thiru. M.Ganesan and Thiru. V.Balaraman.

To encourage artisans who make handicrafts, the Tamil Nadu Government has been honouring them by giving Poompuhar State Awards to 10 artisans every year. The Award consists of Rs.50,000 cash prize, gold pendant of 4 grams, a *Tamirapathram* and a certificate. If the award winners are poor, they will be given the Central Government's monthly pension of Rs.3,500.

For the year 2019-2020, the Poompuhar State Award is being given to 10 artisans, Thiru. M.Murugaraj, Thiru. V.Mohan, Thiru. R.Prasannna Venkatesh, Thiru. K.Balraj, Thiru. G.Sundaram, Dr.M. Chandrasekaran, Tmt. N. Khairunnisa, Tmt.M.Kanmani, Thiru. R.Kumaraguru and Tmt. M.T.Vanitha Sri.

During the Budget Demand for the Sericulture Department, it was announced that the 3 best sericulture farmers in the State would be given each Rs.One lakh, Rs.75,000 and Rs.50,000 respectively. For the year 2019-2020, the first prize of Rs. One lakh was given to Thiru. N.Anbazhagan of Tiruppur District, the Second Prize of Rs.75,000 to B.Prabhu of Namakkal District and the Third Prize of Rs.50,000 T.Senthil of Dharmapuri District. The Hon'ble Chief Minister honoured the artisans and the farmers by handing over the Awards.

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens Radiation Oncology blocks to provide high-end treatment for cancer

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurated, on behalf of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, the Radiation Oncology Block, set up at a cost of Rs.29.50 crore and launched the Linear Accelerator service at a function held at the Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Specialty Hospital, Chennai on 28.01.2020. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated through video conferencing a Radiation Oncology Block, set up at the Government Royapettah Hospital,Chennai at a cost of Rs.22.21 crore and the linear accelerator service.

The Tamil Nadu Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is setting up the high-tech linear accelerator medical equipment in Government hospitals at a cost of Rs.190 crore for providing high-end treatment for cancer. Work on upgrading at a cost of Rs.120 crore, the Adyar Cancer Institute, Chennai as a Centre of Excellence at State level for treatment of cancer, is about to be completed. Four Cancer Zones have been created at a cost of Rs.59 crore in the Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai and in the Government Medical College Hospitals at Coimbatore, Thanjavur and Tirunelveli. Also, works have been started at the Government Arignar Anna Memorial Cancer Hospital, Karapettai, Kancheepuram District to establish a Centre of Excellence at a cost of Rs.120 crore.

Three types of treatments – surgery, chemotherapy and radiation - are given for cancer. Radiation plays an important role in treating cancer. For this type of treatment, the modern equipment of linear accelerator is very important. Keeping this in mind,

the Tamil Nadu Government that follows in the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's line, has set up the Radiation Oncology Blocks and Linear Accelerator equipment at the Government Multi Super Specialty Hospital and Government Royapettah Hospital, Chennai.

The new block has an out-patient ward for cancer patients, radiation equipment of linear accelerator, CT simulator, radiator machine and an operation theatre. The technology of the types of equipment set up here is world class. The types of equipment here tackle the affected tissues alone to cure the disease and do not damage the healthy tissues surrounding the affected ones.

While treatment for cancer in private hospitals costs several lakh rupees, poor people can get the same treatment in Government hospitals free of cost. Through the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme also, people can get this treatment.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates sixth phase of Keezhadi excavations

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 19.02.2020, inaugurated through video conferencing, the sixth phase of the excavation exercise by the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department in Keezhadi and the surrounding villages of Manalur, Konthagai and Agaram in Sivagangai District. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open buildings equipped with modern kitchen gadgets for the State Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology Centre at Thuvakkudi in Tiruchirapalli district, costing Rs.5 crore.

The Tamil Nadu Government, treading the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been implementing various measures to establish the renown of the ancient Tamil people in the world arena. In this connection, the Archaeological Survey of India conducted excavations in 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 on a 110 acre site at Pallichanthai Thidal in Keezhadi village of Tirupuvanam in Sivagangai District. In this excavation, 7,818 artifacts were excavated, which proved that people belonging to Sangam Era (beginning of history) lived at Keezhadi.

Based on this excavation, the Archaeological Department of the Tamil Nadu Government got the permission of the advisory panel of the Archaeological Survey of India to conduct further excavations. For the fourth phase of excavation at Keezhadi, the State Government had allotted Rs.55 lakh. As per the guidelines of the ASI, the fourth phase of excavation was conducted in 2018-2019. In this excavation, 34 trenches were dug, 5,820 artifacts and the architecture of ancient Tamil people came to light. Notable among the artifacts are parts of broken gold ornaments, copper articles, various types of beads, terracotta figures, ivory articles, dices and spindle whorls. In addition, 56 Tamil Brahmi words inscribed on shredded pots and 1001 broken pots with inscriptions were found. Along with these, two ring wells were also found.

After the Fourth Phase of Excavation, the Tamil Nadu Government allotted Rs.47 lakh for the year 2018-2019 for carrying out the Fifth Phase of Excavation in an expanded and significant manner. For finding out the site and carrying out the Fifth Phase of Excavation, the State Archeological Department adopted scientific techniques and conducted spot investigation to carry out the excavation. In the Fifth Phase of Excavation, various kinds of brick structures were brought to light. These

structures include open channel with burnt brick flooring, closed drainage and drainage in the form of spring-shaped terracotta pipes. These findings showed the water management of people of that era. In addition, 16-metre long single structure wall, two ring wells and tanks made of brick were also found. In addition, 900 artifacts including terracotta figures, beads, copper coins, iron objects, play things, circular chips, bone corners, terracotta earrings, bangles made from conches and ornaments made of ivory were excavated.

One of the major tasks of the archaeological excavations is to find out the date of these artifacts. These artifacts were subjected to tests in world class laboratories. The carbon samples found in Keezhadi were sent to Beta Laboratory in Miami in Florida State of the US. It was revealed that the carbon samples belong to 580 BC. So, in Keezhadi there was a civilization dating 2,600 years back and the people were well advanced in technology.

Over 1 lakh people and researchers , enthusiasts, school and college students visited the exhibition which showcased the artifacts of Keezhadi.

To enable people to see the artifacts excavated in Keezhadi, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, inaugurated an exhibition in the World Tamil Sangam complex, Madurai, through video conferencing. So far more than one lakh people visited the exhibition.

Keeazadi is very close to the Temple city Madurai. Since the findings in Keezhadi excavation show the ancient civilization of Tamil people and their culture, it has been planned to continue the sixth phase of the excavations in and around Keezhadi, Agaram and Konthakgai with the permission of Centre Advisory Board of Archaeology of ASI. As per the suggestion of the ASI, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami inaugurated at the Secretariat through video conferencing, the Sixth Phase of the Excavation.

The State Government also got the permission of the standing committee of the ASI to conduct archaeological excavations in Adichanalllur and Sivakalai in Thoothukudi District and Kodumanal in Erode District, to conduct on-the-spot excavations in Krishnagiri, Vellur, Dharmapuri, Tiruvannamalai and Salem districts and to identify Tamirabarani River-civilization along Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli districts by organizing on-the-spot archaeological excavations.

The task of finding out the exact archaeological locations for the excavations has been successfully completely through Ground Penetrating Radar and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle-UAV Survey.

As per the announcement of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110, the State Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology Centre in Tiruchirapalli is conducting 3-year graduate courses, 18 months diploma courses and certificate course, training programme for hotel employees and employment-oriented training under smart training programme for untrained people. The Hon'ble Amma also announced that the Centre would soon upgrade the institute as a centre of excellence in tourism and hospitality education.

As a part of the programme, smart classroom, conference hall, teachers room, training kitchen hall, students experimental room, students kitchen training room, bakery training room, model guests rooms, upgraded infrastructure, new equipment and furniture, water treatment plant and new generator of 125 kw capacity were declared open by Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami.

Vehicles for Water Resources Officers under IAMWARM project

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami distributed car keys to 5 officers as a token of distribution of 18 vehicles procured at a cost of Rs.1.47 crore under the Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project, for the use of chief engineers and superintending engineers of the Department of Water Resources at the Secretariat on 29.01.2020.

For the effective implementation of the Tamill Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project, 4 Toyota Innova Crysta cars for the use of Chief Engineers and 14 Toyota Etios cars for the use of superintending engineers of the Department of Water Resources, were procured, respectively at a cost of Rs.55,53,940 and Rs.91,46,060 (totally Rs.1.47 crore).

Tiruvallur District was given the SKOCH Award at a function held at New Delhi on 11.01.2020 under the category "Water" for its pioneering effort – Giving Life to Irrigation and temple tanks – executed with the aim of 'Protection and conservation of Water Resources'. The Hon'ble Chief Minister congratulated the District Collector of Tiruvallur Tmt. Maheswari Ravikumar when she showed the golden SKOCH Award to him

Hon'ble Chief Minister welcomes Union Budget, seeks more funds for drought-hit Districts

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on the Central Government's Budget tabled on 01.02.2020 *(English Translation).*

I congratulate the Hon'ble Central Finance Minister for presenting a Budget for the year 2020-2021 that encourages economic growth and further enhances the prospects of prosperity of the people of the country.

I welcome the way the Budget has been formulated around developing infrastructure, agriculture and irrigation and on giving a boost to rural growth.

I welcome the announcement in the Budget of a special scheme for 100 Districts in the country where water shortage is acute. I request that more funds be allotted to Tamil Nadu that is often affected by drought by bringing under this scheme all the Districts in the State that face this problem.

Likewise, the initiative to generate solar power in areas left fallow due to water scarcity is to be welcomed.

Tamil Nadu continues to be a model State for the whole Country in the maintenance of law and order and in reducing the incidence of crime. Considering this, I request the Centre to set up any one of the two Universities announced in the Budget, National Police University or National Forensic University, in Tamil Nadu.

I welcome the setting up of a seamless national cold storage chain through the proposed Kisan Rail of Indian Railways and the Krishi UDAN scheme of the Civil Aviation Ministry.

I appreciate the allotment of Rs.2.83 lakh crore for the irrigation and agriculture sectors.

I heartily applaud the target fixation of 200 lakh tonnes of fish production for the year 2022-2023 and the decision to double milk productivity by the year 2025.

While thanking the Central Government on behalf of Tamil Nadu and the people of Tamil Nadu for the announcement in the Budget of taking up developmental works inclusive of a museum in five archaeological sites including Adichanallur, I request the inclusion of Keezhadi also in this scheme.

The announcement of special concessions to industrial establishments that manufacture electronic equipment and smart phones for increasing their production, will, I hope, enthuse the starting of new manufacturing units. Also, an allotment of Rs.1,480 crore has been made to upgrade the quality of production of technology-oriented textile varieties. The Districts of Chennai, Tiruppur and Virudhunagar are acclaimed as the best in this field and production units in them can upgraded, with this fund, to international levels.

The Central Government had already reduced the corporate tax last year to create job opportunities through investment in new industries, to develop the economy and to incentivize private institutions. In continuation of this, the individual income tax structure has been modified to provide tax concessions to the middle class and to simplify the tax structure. I expect it to provide relief to this class of people and increase consumption.

I welcome the announcement of the creation of five smart cities to encourage startups industries. I request one more smart city be set up in Tamil Nadu which is at the forefront in this field.

In the Central Government's National Infrastructure Pipeline, the listing of schemes worth about Rs.100 lakh crore for developing infrastructure in many important sectors, is to be welcomed.

I convey my appreciation for the announcement in the Budget that the Chennai-Bengaluru Express Highway will be set up shortly. The announcement of a scheme to create highways to a length of 6,000 km by 2024 through the National Highway Authority, is to be welcomed.

The Budget refers to the setting up of 100 new airports. I request the inclusion of Neyveli, Hosur and Rameswaram in this scheme for the setting up of airports and the allotment of sufficient funds for expansion of the airports in Coimbatore, Tiruchi, Madurai and Thoothukudi.

The announcement that a National Mission will be created for quantum technologies at an outlay of Rs.8,000 crore, to encourage private investment in the developing technological fields like computing and information connectivity, is to be welcomed.

This budget has been efficiently formulated without imposing a tax burden on the people and in a manner as to benefit different sections. The various announcements made in this budget not only fulfill the expectations of the people but also facilitate future development. My good wishes to the Hon'ble Central Finance Minister for presenting this Budget.

161st Birth Anniversary of Sinthanai Sirpi Ma. Singaravelar

In connection with the 161st birth anniversary of Sinthanai Sirpi Ma. Singaravelar, Hon'ble Ministers, Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Text book and Educational Services Corporation and other high Government officials paid floral tributes to the portrait of Singaravelar kept near his statue at Chennai Collectorate office campus, on 18.02.2020

Participating in Akshaya Patra function for new central kitchen for school kids...

Hon'ble Chief Minister urges Foundation to expand its activities all over Tamil Nadu

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the Bhoomi Pooja function for a central kitchen of the Akshaya Patra Foundation held on 15.02.2020 *(English Translation)*

Bowing to Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Goddess Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

I am extremely happy to participate in the Bhoomi Pooja function for the proposed central kitchen of the Akshaya Patra Foundation for the preparation of breakfast for school children.

Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Governor Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, presiding over this excellent event, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.O.Panneerselvam who has shared excellent ideas as a guest of the event, Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Youth Welfare and Sports Development Thiru.K.A.Sengottaiyan who is gracing this function as a special invitee, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration and Rural Development, Implementation of Special Programme Thiru.S.P.Velumani, who has delivered a special address, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Thiru.D.Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Nutritious Noon Meal Programme Dr. V.Saroja, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaelogy Thiru.K.Pandiarajan, Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Assembly, former Members of Parliament, Respected former Judge of the Madras

High Court, former Chairman of the Board, Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner Thiru.G.Prakash I.A.S., Chairman of Akshaya Patra Foundation Thiru.Madhu Pandit Dasa, Vice Chairman of the Foundation Thiru. Chanchalapathi Dasa, Unit President of the Foundation Thiru.Jai Chaitanya Dasa, Executives of the Foundation, Students, Elders, Ladies, Friends, Newspaper and Media Friends – at the outset, my respects to all of you.

The Tamil epic *Manimekalai* says: Food sustains life and those who feed people can be said to give life to them. Valluvar Perunthakai said – "*Urupasiyum ovaapiniyum serupagaiyum seraadhu iyalvadhu naadu*" ('That is a country which is free from starvation, disease and inimical foes'). Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi said – 'God reveals Himself to the poor in the food bowl'; and Perarignar Anna said – 'In the smile of the poor, I see God'.

I consider it befitting to mention some of the steps taken by the Tamil Nadu Government to free school children and poor people from hunger.

It is said, "Poverty is cruel; worse still is poverty in childhood" (*Kodithu Kodithu Varumai Kodithu; Adhaninum Kodiyathu Elamayil Varumai*).

Yes, this is true. Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. has reminiscenced about thus: "I have experienced the agony of hunger at a very young age when one could only shed tears to express it. Had not the lady next door given us rice, prepared kanji and helped us, our mother who had not eaten for three days and we would have left this world long ago".

Puratchi Thalaivar then added, "On that day, a mother gave us life; today, it is such mothers who have made me Chief Minister, placing full faith in me. I realize it is my urgent

and utmost duty to make at least a little effort to remove the deplorable condition in many poor families where mothers are helplessly wringing their hands without food to feed their children".

Impelled by this sentiment, Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. implemented the wonderful Nutritious Meals Programme to make available at least once in a day in the noon, nutritious meals to poor children in the age group 2 to 10.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar launched the Nutritious Meals Schemes in 1982, taking into account that children were the Nation's future and that children growing up in backwardness should grow up as healthy citizens with intelligence. He thus made Tamil Nadu the pioneer in starting such a scheme.

Later, Hon'ble Amma changed the name of this scheme to 'Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Meals Programme'. Though many leaders implemented this scheme, the one launched by Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. spread all over the country and was applauded by people as the best. This scheme was further fine-tuned by Hon'ble Amma by changing the food varieties served, inclusive of 13 types of mixed food and by directing the serving of 'masala' eggs. Along with the nutritious meals, black 'kondaikadalai', green gram and potato are served once a week. Vegetarian students are served plantain.

To execute the Nutritious Meals Programme effectively, the Tamil Nadu Government has set up a separate administrative structure. I am proud to say this has provided jobs to people in thousands. At present, about 50 lakh students, boys and girls benefit through 43,283 Nutritious Meals Centres.

Though this scheme benefited poor school students, 'Amma Unavagam' have been set up to address the hunger of the poor and down-trodden people in urban areas. Initially, it was started in Chennai but later extended to the entire State. Now, many steps are being taken to further improve this scheme.

I am happy to state that Tamil Nadu Government is implementing schemes like nutritious meals for children, 'Annadaanam' in temples and 'Amma Unavagam' for poor urban workers, to satiate hunger.

Thiru. Bakthi Vedanta Swami Prabupada was greatly agonized when he saw some children fighting with street dogs to get food articles cast on the wayside. This resulted in the founding of 'Akshaya Patra Foundation', a service organization to provide food to children with an ideal that no children should go hungry. My heart-felt congratulations and good wishes to this Foundation.

In the epic *Manimekalai* of *Sangam* times, we read that *Manimekalai* satiated people's hunger through the '*Amudhasurabhi*' bowl that had an unending supply of food. It is most appropriate that this Foundation, started in the year 2000 to supply food to school students so

that hunger is not a hurdle for them in continuing their education, is named ‘Akshaya Patra’ akin to ‘*Amudhasurabhi*’.

Supplying food daily to 18 lakh children in 16,856 schools across the entire country is a magnificent humanitarian act.

I am extremely happy to learn that this organization is supplying, jointly with the Greater Chennai Corporation from 2019, breakfast to 5,785 students in 24 Corporation schools and that for the preparation of the breakfast items like Idly, Pongal and Uppuma, it has set up a kitchen at Thiruvanmiyur at a cost of Rs. 2 crore.

With the noble idea of further extending this breakfast scheme to the schools of Greater Chennai Corporation, this Foundation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Corporation for setting up modular kitchens this year on a 20,000 sq.ft area on Greams Road and on an area of 35,000 sq.ft in Barracks Road for preparing food for 12,000 and 15,000 students respectively. Considering the preparation of food for the Corporation school students in a hygienic way here, Hon’ble Amma’s Government has permitted the location of these two kitchens in the Corporation’s own places and the payment of water tax, electricity connection charge and electricity charges are borne by the Corporation itself.

I convey my appreciation to the Hon’ble Governor for his financial assistance from his discretionary funds for the setting up of the modular kitchen through the Akshaya Patra Foundation on Greams Road.

It is said that gifting food is the best among all charities. It is so, because unlike other things that are given in charity, food alone satiates the receiver.

Through this event, I request the Akshaya Patra Foundation not to confine its breakfast scheme to Chennai alone but to extend it throughout Tamil Nadu for school students to continue their education without hunger.

Today, I complete three years in office as Chief Minister. I am happy to participate in this function on this good day. I am proud to participate on this day in the event of Bhoomi Pooja for setting up kitchens for extending the breakfast scheme to school students – an event connected with gifting food, akin to the nutritious noon meal scheme, started by our party leader Puratchi Thalaivar and later fine-tuned by Hon’ble Amma.

My hearty thanks to the Executives of Akshaya Patra Foundation for organizing this function well and its leaders. Conveying my good wishes for the progress of this Foundation further and further for driving away poor students’ hunger and expressing thanks for giving me this opportunity, I take leave of you.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates work for Krishnagiri Medical College in 25-acre area

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** after laying the foundation stone for a new Government Medical College to be set up in the District of Krishnagiri on 04.03.2020 *(English Translation)*.

I pay my obeisance to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.O.Panneerselvam who has delivered the presidential address for this function, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Thiru.K.P.Anbazhagan, Hon'ble Health Minister Dr.C.Vijayabaskar, Hon'ble Ministers, former Minister Thiru.K.P. Munusamy, former Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Dr.M.Thambidurai, Hon'ble MPs and MLAs, former MPs and MLAs, Chief Secretary to Government Thiru.K.Shanmugam who has delivered the welcome address, Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare Tmt. Beela Rajesh, District Collector Thiru.S.Prabhakar who is to propose a vote of thanks, District Panchayat President, Representatives of Local Bodies, Executives of Co-operative Societies, Elders, Ladies, Newspaper and Media friends – at the outset, my respects to all of you.

I am extremely happy to participate in the foundation laying ceremony for a new Medical College to be set up on a 25-acre area at Polupalli in the District of Krishnagiri full of the sweetness of mangoes and the fragrance of roses.

This region has come to be known as 'Krishnagiri' from the time of Krishnadevarayar's rule. The Krishnagiri fort and ramparts built by him are still here.

The British used to call the town '*Thali*' in this District as Little England. The British started a horse-rearing farm on 1,642 acres of land in this District in 1824.

Hosur is a city that has many big industries. The SIPCOT and SIDCO industrial estates, started by Hon'ble Amma in 1992 has been providing jobs for people of this area for many years. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma added glory to this region by dividing Dharmapuri

District and created a new District with Krishnagiri as headquarters.

In Krishnagiri, famous for its mangoes, Hon'ble Amma started the All India Mango Festival in the year 1993 and it continues to be held every year in the months of June-July. This has created the environment for farmers to produce high quality mangoes to participate in the festival.

Rose flowers grown in the rose gardens of the Krishnagiri-Bagalur belt, not only meet domestic needs but are also exported. Krishnagiri District has also high production of flowers like jasmine and marigold (samanthi). That is why MPs and MLAs here made a request for locating an international flower auction centre here. Last year, respected elder brother K.P.Munusamy met me, and echoing the views of the people and farmers here requested me to make a statement under Rule 110 in the Assembly session about this. Honouring his request and by way of fulfilling the wishes of farmers here, I then announced the happy news that an international flower auction centre would be set up at a cost of Rs.20 crore. Work on it has already started.

Hosur has an Institute of Vector Control and Zoonoses to control insect and animal-borne diseases to humans.

The Nedungal and Krishnagiri reservoirs, lakes inclusive of Ramanaicken and Barur and rivers like south Pennaiyaru and Markanda play a great role in the development of this District.

A District of such fame has schools, art and science colleges and engineering colleges in a great measure but there is no Government Medical College separately for this District.

Hon'ble Amma's Government that functions as per Hon'ble Amma's nectarine concept, "I am of the people; I am for the people", acceded to the request of the people of this area, got Central Government's approval to set up a Government Medical College in this District and has laid the foundation for it today. I am proud to say that Hon'ble Amma's Government is the only Government that has got central Government's permission in a short duration to start 11 new Government Medical Colleges inclusive of the one to be started in Krishnagiri District.

With a student enrolment of 150, this college will start functioning from the 2021-2022 academic year. Amma's Government has appointed the college principal and a special officer to take up the preparatory works for the college and has allotted Rs.70 crore for taking up this year's construction works. These works will be started soon and the college will commence its work next year. After Independence, till the year 2011, only 1,945 seats had been additionally created in Tamil Nadu Medical Colleges. Till Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma ruled the state, 885 more seats were added. After Amma's demise, Amma's Government that follows the footsteps of Amma increased the number of seats by 350. Now, with the sanctioning of 11 new Government Medical Colleges, 1,650 more seats will be created. Totally, Hon'ble Amma's Government has created 2,000 additional seats in Medical Colleges. I am happy to say that our Government has created in a short time, a situation where so many students can study medicine. I am also proud to state that these 11 new Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals will have modern facilities. At present, patients who go to Government Hospitals for treatment, are having to wait outside. To remove this difficulty, we have constructed a hall with a seating capacity for 250 persons and with all facilities. I am saying this as villagers used to speak of Government Hospitals as 'charity' institutions. But now, Government Hospitals have greater facilities than private Hospitals and in future, a time

will soon come when people will prefer to go to Government Hospitals rather than to private ones.

When I visited London with our Health Minister, we learnt that 90 per cent of the people there get treatment in Government Hospitals only. Similarly, Hospitals with all facilities will be created for these 11 Medical Colleges. In the existing Hospitals too we are providing additional facilities. We have supplied to our 10 Medical Colleges, Rs.20 crore worth of equipment to diagnose cancer, give high class treatment and cure the disease. We have supplied this to the Omandurar multi super specialty Hospital, and the Royapettah Government Hospital, Chennai. Even private Hospitals do not have this facility. This is totally free. If cancer is detected in poor persons, our Government has created conditions under which they can get cured. Not only this. Our Government has accomplished the feat of transplanting both hands to a person who had lost them.

I made many announcements at the Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R's centenary function and we are implementing them one by one. We said an announcement would be made declaring Hosur city as a municipal corporation. We have done that. We said Krishnagiri municipality would be upgraded as a special status municipality; we have done it.

An allotment of Rs.276 crore has been made for construction of new supply channels on the right and left side of the Ennegol Dam for conveying the surplus waters of South Pennai river to 35 lakes in 18 drought-ridden villages in the District of Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri and to convey more water to Thumbalahalli dam. Land acquisition works are in progress now. I wish to inform that after the completion of the land acquisition works, construction of supply channels will be executed quickly and farmers in the region will be supplied water. Funds have been allotted and land acquisition works are in progress for the implementation of the Azhiyalam Vaikal scheme at an estimate of Rs.67 crore and lake irrigation scheme for 33 lakes at an estimate of Rs.80 crore for filling up lakes in the District with the surplus waters of South Pennai river.

As far as our Government is concerned, we have brought in the water management scheme, created a separate division for it and appointed 5 retired engineers - 2 chief engineers and 3 superintending engineers. They toured the whole of Tamil Nadu for one-and-a-half years and on their recommendations, check dams are being constructed to conserve water resources wherever they are available. In a like manner,

check dams are being constructed to prevent even a drop of rain water going waste during the monsoon periods. To realize this, it has been made a three-year project, an allotment of Rs.1,000 crore has been made and now Rs.650 crore worth scheme works are being carried out. I therefore wish to happily inform that the long-standing demands of farmers are being implemented by our Government. The Vaniottu, Thindal, Kottavur Vaaikaal and Kodiyalam water pumping schemes are also under examination. Suitable action will be taken on the basis of the report submitted.

Construction of check dams across South Pennai river at Arasampatti and Penderahalli has been completed.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma stated: "Our Government is firm on achieving for Tamil Nadu, which is not only India's premier state but also the model state, health indices on par with developed countries in health services". Today Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many schemes in the health sector with a visionary outlook. I am happy to inform at this hour that in the last 9 years alone, Rs.75,000 crore has been allotted for this Department. I wish to inform about some of the achievements of Hon'ble Amma's Government in the health sector.

- To take care of rural people's health, Amma's Government has opened 254 new primary health centres (PHC); upgraded 165 PHCs into 30-bed Hospitals.
- Modern internet-based eye testing centres have been set up in PHCs in all Districts. Optometrists, appointed in these centres, examine the patients and forward their findings to ophthalmologists in the District Hospital through internet and give treatment on their advice. Through this system, villagers suffering from diabetes-induced diseases like long/short sightedness, cataract and glaucoma can get high class treatment from their place of residence itself.
- Hon'ble Amma's Government has set up a separate Medical Services Recruitment Board for selecting medical staff and in the last 3 years alone, 13,537 personnel have been appointed through this Board.
- As for Krishnagiri District, at present it has one headquarters Hospital, 5 Taluk Hospitals, one non-Taluk Hospital, 56 PHCs, 13 upgraded PHCs, 5 urban PHCs and 239 health sub centres, offering medical and health services to the poor.

Besides these, Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many schemes for the development of the people of this District. I wish to outline some of them.

In this mountainous Krishnagiri District, we have started 18 new PHCs in the last 3 years; 651 'kudimaramathu' works to provide enough water for farmers have been executed in this District with farmers' full co-operation at a cost of Rs.14.05 crore; 'Kudimaramathu' scheme has been excellently implemented with farmers' participation to store monsoon rain waters without any wastage; under the Hon'ble Chief Minister Special Grievances Redressal scheme, 30,273 petitions were received from all over the District and eligible petitions have been acted upon and grievances settled; of these petitions, 5,460 pertained to pension and they have been approved and pension is being disbursed.

Hon'ble Minister and the member of Legislative Assembly urged me wherever I went, to launch the special grievance redressal scheme. The aim of this scheme is to change the practice of people going to the Government and presenting petitions into that of Government going to people to collect the petitions and solve their problems. On that basis, 30,273 petitions were collected in this District and grievances of

eligible petitioners solved. Hon'ble Amma's Government has disbursed in just 3 months, pension to about 5,460 senior citizens. We made an announcement that a monthly pension of Rs.1,000 would be given to five lakh poor senior citizens who are unable to work. In this District, we are paying the pension to 5,460 senior citizens.

Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma implemented many schemes to provide educational facility to poor people. We are carrying out those schemes without any deviation whatsoever and have created an atmosphere for students to study in a good way. It is Amma's Government that has given at no cost, footwear, text books, note books, school bag, bicycle to reach the school on time and laptop for scientific education. No other Government has done this in India. That is why the enrolment of students in higher education is highest in Tamil Nadu in the whole of the country. During DMK's rule in 2011, 34 per cent took to higher education. The revolution, renaissance brought about by Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in the field of education and higher allotment of funds to education Department than others, have increased the number of persons taking to higher studies in villages and towns. As a result of the increase in students from poor families going for higher education, the higher education percentage has increased to 49. Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in India in admissions to higher education. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma opened 65 arts and science colleges; after her, Amma's Government opened 12 Government arts and science colleges – totally, Amma's Government has given 77 Government arts and science colleges.

Likewise many other colleges – agriculture, veterinary, polytechnic and engineering – have been set up, resulting in an increase in the number of students taking up higher education, elevating Tamil Nadu into the premier state status in the whole country. In this District, 12,273 laptops have been distributed at no cost to school and college students.

Four new combined water supply scheme works, valued at Rs.72.74 crore have been undertaken in this District. 'Amrut' scheme works have been taken up to improve water supply in Hosur Municipal Corporation area at an estimate of Rs.87.91 crore.

Under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, high grade medical treatment has been provided to 27,379 beneficiaries. During Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's time, treatment under this scheme in private Hospitals can be taken up to a limit of Rs. 2 lakh. Following a request from people to increase the ceiling on account of its insufficiency, Amma's Government immediately increased it to Rs.5 lakh from Rs.2 lakh.

Through the central co-operative banks, crop loan to an extent of Rs.133 crore has been given to 17,000 micro and small farmers.

Under the Green House scheme, 2,057 persons have obtained houses.

- Loan assistance was extended to Self Help Groups (SHG) for the economic development of women in villages. Amma's Government provided loan to the tune of Rs.685 crore to 13,263 SHGs and paved the way for their economic development.
- Milch cows have been distributed at no cost to 1,000 beneficiaries.
- The quantum of gold for 'thaali' to educated women has been raised from half a sovereign to one; As marriage assistance, we are giving Rs.25,000 and Rs.50,000.
- Under the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Uzhavar Padukaappu scheme, a monthly pension of Rs.1,000/ is given to 23,569 farmers.
- Monthly old-age pension of Rs.1,000 is distributed to 21,629 senior citizens in this District alone.
- A footwear factory, providing job opportunities to 10,000 persons has been established at the Bargur SIPCOT industrial estate at a cost of Rs.360 crore.
- Repairing of sluices at Krishnagiri K.R.P. Dam at a cost of Rs.20 crore is under way. This will benefit farmers.
- In Krishnagiri municipality, an underground sewerage scheme has been implemented at a cost of Rs.37 crore and brought to public use.
- Amma's Government has put up a new arts and science college at Hosur.
- Through the Department of rural development, a high rise bridge has been constructed across Markanda river to connect Kuppachiparai and another bridge across South Pennai river at Kamanthotti. Like these, many schemes have been implemented for the people of this area.

Countless schemes like these are being executed by Hon'ble Amma's Government for the welfare of the people of this District.

Puratchi Thalaivar sang: *"Munnetraa pathaiyile manase vaithu/muzhumoochaai adharkaaga dhinam uzhaithu/mannile mutthheduthu pirar vaazha/vazhangum gunam udaiyone vivasayee*" ('Putting his heart and soul on the path of progress and toiling for it in full measure, the farmer harvests pearls from the soil and has the heart to give them to others). In tune with the lines of this song, and with the sentiments of a farmer, Hon'ble Amma's Government is designing schemes and toiling every day for the development of Tamil Nadu and for the people to lead a peaceful and prosperous life. But without understanding the true nature of the schemes implemented by Hon'ble Amma's Government, some opposition parties, with a wrong perception, are spreading falsehood among people. They are confused and they confuse people. When I say this, I am reminded of a story.

Once, Lord Krishna was returning home after meeting Duryodana in his ambassadorial mission on behalf of the Pandavas. In his anxiety to know whether Krishna had left the town, Duryodana went upstairs and was intently scanning the pathway up to a long distance.

At that time, Aswathama, son of Duryodana's Guru Drona, was returning home. Seeing Lord Krishna on the way, he paid his respects to him. When Lord Krishna returned the courtesy, Lord Krishna's ring fell down. Aswathama immediately picked it up and extended his hand with the ring. Lord Krishna hadn't noticed this, but was looking at the skies, and spoke to Aswathama thus, "Look at the sky. Clouds are gathering. Will it rain today?"

Aswathama looked up and affirmed that it would rain and returned the ring. As a gesture of affection, Lord Krishna held his hand and

blessed him.

Seeing this from the palace, Duryodana misinterpreted everything. Based on his devious thoughts, he imagined the dialogue between the two according to his fancy.

"I thought this Aswathama is my friend. But he speaks to Lord Krishna submissively. How can he behave in this manner," Duryodana thought. He also misinterpreted Aswathama stooping to the ground to pick up the ring, looking up at the sky to answer the question on rain and Lord Krishna holding his hands while taking back the ring. Duryodana imagined that Aswathama had vowed in the presence of the Earth and Sky to stand by Lord Krishna in war.

Like Duryodana in this story, some opposition parties, without understanding the true nature of Hon'ble Amma Government's many good schemes and with the sole aim of being inimical, spread slander for political gains by confusing themselves and the people. I know that you understand whom I am referring to.

Members of Legislature, Representatives of Local Bodies and former members of Parliament here, have made certain demands and requested implementation of projects on the basis of those demands. Stating that these demands will be examined and that the Government will take steps to implement them in stages, I make the following new announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Central median and street-light facilities will be provided in 5 important roads in Krishnagiri municipal area at a cost of Rs.5 crore to reduce road accidents.
2. The environment around Chinna Yeri near the new bus stand of Krishnagiri municipality, will be protected with the setting up of footpath park, electric lights and through the conservation of ground water, all at a cost of Rs.3.36 crore.
3. A new eco-tourism park will be set up at an estimate of Rs.72 lakh at Polupalli village near the new Medical College.
4. The Hosur Veterinary Hospital will be upgraded as a multi-faceted veterinary Hospital at cost of Rs.2.50 crore.
5. Near the new Medical College on the Hosur-Krishnagiri highway, a new foot over-bridge will be set up at a cost of Rs.30 crore for the use of patients and students.
6. To meet the drinking water needs of the Medical College, a separate combined water supply scheme will be implemented by setting up an open well near the Thenpennai river with a purification station at a cost of Rs.2.50 crore.
7. A road bridge will be constructed at a cost of Rs.14.71 crore at Thennaiyankotta place, coming under Kattinayanapalli panchayat on the Krishnagiri-Chennai highway to prevent road accidents.
8. A flyover will be constructed at a cost of Rs.1.35 crore at Anginayanapalli, next to Bargur on the Krishnagiri-Chennai Highway to prevent road accidents.
9. A separate combined water supply scheme with the Thenpennai river water as the source, will be implemented at a cost of Rs.5 crore to meet the drinking water needs of 39 hamlets coming under the panchayats of Pedhathalapalli and Kattikanapalli in the Krishnagiri Panchayat Union.
10. A separate combined water supply scheme with South Pennai River water as source, will be implemented at a cost of Rs.1.50 crore by setting up an open well for meeting the drinking waters needs of 11 hamlets in the panchayats of Bellampalli

and Sembadamuthur in the Krishnagiri Panchayat Union.

11. Office buildings will be constructed for the Principal Education Officer and Krishnagiri District Education Officer in the campus of the Krishnagiri District Collectorate at a cost of Rs.2.20 crore.
12. In the Kaveripattinam Union, a high rise bridge will be constructed at a cost of Rs.6 crore to connect Santhapuram – Chowttahalli Panchayat, Pallipatti village.
13. Thirteen road development works will be undertaken in the villages of Kattikanapalli, Pedhathalapalli and Sengadapuram at an estimate of Rs.1.35 crore.
14. Under the Prime Minister's Houses for All scheme, apartments will be constructed at a cost of about Rs.55 crore in Hosur Municipality.
15. The veterinary dispensary in Krishnagiri city will be upgraded as Veterinary Hospital at a cost of Rs.60 lakh.

It is mentioned that the Metro Rail Project – I in Begaluru city comes up to the city borders. I wish to inform that Government is examining extension of that project from that Karnataka border to our Hosur city.

Corona virus is threatening the whole world. Countries like China are affected most. Passengers from abroad are examined to prevent the spreading of corona virus in India. Some cases of corona infection have been detected in India and treatment is being given. So far no such thing has come to our notice in Tamil Nadu. However, to create awareness among people about the precautionary measures to be taken and to keep the Hospitals ready, the Department of Health and Family Welfare and District Collectors are functioning on a war footing. There is no need for fear; yet the spreading of this virus can be prevented by washing the hands with soap often and the usage of masks and handkerchief by those suffering from cold and cough. Also, I wish to state that persons affected by fever, cold, cough and respiration difficulties should rush to nearby Hospitals for examination. Till now, corona virus has not visited Tamil Nadu. We need not be afraid. Still we should be cautious. That is why I am saying this. I propose to directly review the steps taken in this regard. Through this event, I request the people to give greater importance to personal hygiene. Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government is your Government; people's Government, one that shines as the premier State in caring and safeguarding people's welfare.

Though there are so many states in India, Tamil Nadu has occupied the premier place in the Central Government's index of good governance. This has been declared by the Central Government. On account of our administrative efficiency, our Government has won many National awards Department-wise and been acclaimed as an achiever. As far as we are concerned, the only Government that does good to the poor, marginalized and oppressed classes in rural areas after understanding their needs, is Amma's Government. Our aim is to remove the word "poor" from Tamil Nadu altogether by walking majestically on the path shown by Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Thanking our Health Minister Dr.Vijayabaskar for his great support in getting and establishing this Government Medical College, the Secretary to the Department of health, officials of the Departments of Revenue and Public Works and the District collector, I take leave of you.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

■

Tamilarasu

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Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** inaugurated Dr.B.Sivanthi Aditanar Manimandapam, built on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu at Veerapandiyapattinam near Thiruchendur in Thoothukudi District on 22.02.2020. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister **Thiru. O.Panneerselvam**, Hon'ble Ministers, MPs, MLAs and other high Government officials were present on the occasion.

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